



GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

# CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER POLICY



Good Shepherd School recognises the uniqueness of each individual as part of God's creation and supports this through the development of the individual's spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical ability. Good Shepherd School acknowledges that education is provided within the Catholic context.

*The School is a Roman Catholic School in which the whole School community, through the general School programme in its Religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are as expressed in the Scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, as determined from time to time by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Auckland.*

*(Integration Agreement 1982, clause 5)*

The Good Shepherd School Board of Trustees recognises the unique position of Māori as tangata whenua, and its role and responsibilities in meeting its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi. Good Shepherd School is, therefore, committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its practical expression in our school.

1. Catholic Special Character permeates all aspects of school life, including all curriculum areas, the school environment and all relationships.
2. The Catholic Special Character expresses the school's charism, drawn from the Josephite tradition and the model of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the school motto and the values of the school: care, respect, honesty.
3. The Religious Education programme is an essential learning area and will be implemented using effective pedagogy.
4. Teaching staff will be required to participate in ongoing professional development in Religious Education and Special Catholic Character.
5. Parents, caregivers and whānau are to be affirmed and supported in their role of being the first teachers of the faith to their children.
6. The Catholic Special Character will be evident through daily class prayer, staff prayers, assemblies, liturgical celebrations, observance of special feast days and celebrations and activities that support and develop an awareness of social justice issues aligned with Catholic social teaching.
7. A close relationship with the Good Shepherd Parish community will be fostered and maintained.

**Chairperson**

May 2024  
**Approved**

2027  
**Next Review**