

# *St Francis School*

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## **Special Character Policy**

### **RATIONALE**

St Francis School is a school in which the Catholic Community exercises the right to live by the teaching of Christ Jesus, as found in Sacred scriptures and the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, through the general school programme and in its religious education and observances.

### **PURPOSES**

St Francis School is a community of faith.

- ♦ which is a living witness to the person of Christ Jesus, whose teachings and ministry give character and focus to our school.
- ♦ Where every pupil is valued equally and given a genuine experience of belonging.
- ♦ Which celebrates an understanding of Christian life in the context of community.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The Board of Trustees members, the Staff, and the wider school community, will be encouraged to support the special character of the school by ...

- ♦ Endeavouring to model the values and attitudes of Jesus Christ in all their dealings.
- ♦ Acknowledging and supporting the school's special character role in the education of the children.
- ♦ Fully participating in the school liturgy, prayer and other activities which are integral to the Catholic nature of our school.
- ♦ Ensuring that all policies and their delivery reflect the special character of the school and are in accordance with the school's Integration Agreement.

### **GUIDELINES**

1. Parents will be supported and affirmed in their role as first teachers of the faith.
2. Teachers are to follow the Programme as directed by the Religious Education Authority of the Diocese and to integrate its values into other curricula.
3. The community will co-ordinate all facets of school life in the light of the Gospels.
4. Teachers are encouraged to participate in the training for religious education made available through in-school meetings and in-service offered by the Religious Education Advisors and other personnel
5. Teachers new to the Catholic System are to attend the appropriate in-service courses
6. Staff will meet regularly for prayer and spiritual formation.

7. The Board of Trustees will communicate regularly with the school community regarding the Catholic Character through the school newsletter, annual reports and school functions.
8. The school community will participate in the celebration of special feasts in the liturgical year and those particular to our school.
9. Staff and students will prepare school liturgies including Mass for the whole school or groups within the school. The school community is invited to participate in these.
10. The school community will support the Sacramental Programme of the Parish.
11. Once a year the staff will provide the opportunity for the school community to become informed on the religious education programme being taught in the school.
12. The school physical environment will reflect the Catholic tradition.

Date: .....

Review Date: .....

Principal: .....

Chairperson: .....