



ST BEDE'S COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – POLICIES

AC2 - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RATIONALE

The Catholic school plays an important role in the teaching ministry of the Church and Religious Education is central to its purposes.

The philosophy of Catholic schools in New Zealand is based on a Catholic understanding of Christianity. Catholic integrated schools live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are expressed in the scriptures and in the practises, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Christchurch determines the essentials of the philosophy and its underpinning values.

Through its Catholic character, the College provides a faith environment within which young people experience Catholic life. In the College's classroom-based Religious Education programme, young people learn what it is to be Catholic: that is, what Catholics believe, why they believe this and how they live, celebrate and pray.

In accordance with the Private Schools Integration Act in the College's Integration Agreement, Religious Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all students of the college.

PRINCIPLES

1. To provide every student with the opportunity to know and love Jesus Christ and to build a strong and lasting relationship with him.
2. To develop students' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the beliefs, history, practises doctrine and traditions of the Catholic Faith.
3. To encourage students to be committed to the truth of the Gospel, to sharing it and to living Gospel values.
4. To help parents fulfil their obligation as first and best religious educators of their sons.
5. To develop the student's awareness of social justice issues in the light of Catholic Social Teaching.
6. To promote educational excellence and achievement for all students.
7. To promote an attitude of respect and responsible stewardship for the Earth.
8. To value and reflect the bi-cultural relationships within Aotearoa New Zealand society.
9. To encourage students and staff and board members to exercise in their relationships, the Gospel values of charity, peace, justice, truth, tolerance, reconciliation and respect for the freedom and the inherent dignity of every person. Such values are to be shown particularly to those who are disadvantaged in any way.
10. To implement the syllabus as defined by the National Centre for Religious Studies – refer to SC1 – Special Character and other material.

REGULATIONS/LEGISLATION

Private Schools Integration Act 1975

Handbook for Boards of Trustees of Catholic Integrated Schools: Appendix 11 Minimum hours requirement for Religious Education in Catholic Schools, *Approved by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 11 May 2011*



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SCHOOL PROCEDURES THAT RELATE TO THIS POLICY

Name of Procedure	Author	Date	Faculty or Department
Curriculum Handbook	DP Curriculum	Annually	Curriculum

DATE APPROVED	15 September 2014	RESPONSIBILITY:	Special Character
REVIEW PERIOD	annually	DATE LAST REVIEWED	15 September 2014