



ST BEDE'S COLLEGE BOARDING HOUSE

CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER POLICY

The Board of Proprietors recognises that it is responsible to see that appropriate action is taken to facilitate a safe, caring, and supportive Boarding environment that faithfully reflects the Catholic and Marist Character of St Bede's College.

Objective

To outline the way the Catholic Character of St Bede's College is protected and fostered within the Boarding House.

Guidelines

- The Board recognises the primary of the Marist Senate regarding the advice and support they may give.
- The Board will begin all meetings with prayer.
- The Board recognises the importance morally and legally, of the Catholic Character when preparing all its written plans and policies ¹
- The Board will receive reports from management on the daily, weekly, yearly activities which support the students in the Boarding House to make the Catholic Character part of their home life whilst residing onsite. This includes making provision to ensure the House décor reflects Catholic Character.
- Ongoing learning and reflection with regards to the relationship between Catholic Special Character and Governance is central to the role of a Board Member

The Board expects that:

- All programmes run by the Boarding House will reflect its Catholic Character.
- The Boarding House actively provides for the spiritual needs of its students and will place emphasis on prayer (grace before meals, evening, and night prayer, etc.) weekly masses and /or liturgies.
- The House will always welcome and encourage the presence of the College chaplain and Marist clergy.
- The Boarding House will always welcome and encourage the presence of members of the school community and wider Catholic community to boarding masses, liturgies, and Catholic character activities.
- Attendance on Sunday, Vigil Mass or a student organised Eucharistic service is to be included as part of weekend activities for all students whilst in residence, and when taking trips away for the weekend. It is requested that, if possible, groups as a whole attend mass together as part of such trips.
- The Boarding House is an active participant in the Centre of Faith and Leadership.
- All staff, students and whanau are to be supportive of the Catholic character of the Boarding House with opportunities for faith development, personal and professional learning.

Date policy reviewed: November 2023

Signed:

Date of next review: December 2024

¹ BOT of NZ Catholic Integrated Schools Handbook 2007 Edition 3.3