

## Governance Policy 8: Special Character

*Our college is the Catholic Church in action, an authentic expression of the Church's mission. Therefore, our role as a Catholic college, is, above all, to be a place where every member of this learning community can encounter the living God and our focus is on helping to form Christ in the lives of others. We do this through the Catholic and Mercy traditions.*

### GUIDELINES

- † Ensure that the school policies and structures reflect the values of Jesus Christ and Special Character as provided for in the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975 and the Integration Agreement for this college.
- † Provide opportunities for trustees, staff, parents/caregivers and students to take part in Sacramental or Liturgical celebrations and to encourage professional development and personal faith.
- † Increase the students' knowledge and appreciation of their faith tradition and the teachings of the Catholic Church by implementing the N.C.R.S. "Understanding Faith" secondary school syllabus.
- † The Principal, DRS, Head Girl and student leaders responsible for Special Character will have an important leadership role in promoting the Catholic Character within the college and our parish communities.
- † Assist newly appointed staff in their understanding of the Special Character of the college through an Orientation Programme.
- † Include a time of prayer at meetings and classes.
- † Ensure that the attitudes, values and conduct of the staff will reflect Gospel values and support the Special Character of the college.
- † Ensure that, with the CCAL, a chaplaincy service is provided for students and staff.
- † Ensure that the college culture and physical environment reflect our Catholic Character.
- † The Special Character subcommittee will report regularly to the Board of Trustees and CCAL on matters relating to the Special Character of the college.

### **This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:**

- † The Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975
- † Carmel College Integration Agreement.
- † NZCEO handbook for Trustees of Catholic schools
- † The Catholic Education School-Age Children (NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, 2014)

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting held on 12 March 2018.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Kathrine Hughes

**NEXT REVIEW SCHEDULED:** no later than March, 2021.