

Governance Policy 2: Trustees' Code of Conduct

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.

The Board is committed to ethical conduct in all areas of its responsibilities and authority.

All Trustees shall:

1. Maintain, understand and be loyal to the values and mission of the school.
2. Ensure that the Special Character of the school is upheld and role modelled.
3. Ensure the needs of all students and their achievement is paramount.
4. Represent the school in a positive manner.
5. Respect the integrity of the Principal and staff.
6. Observe the confidentiality of non-public information acquired in their role as a trustee and not disclose to any other persons such information that might be harmful to the school or to individuals.
7. Be diligent in attending Board meetings fully prepared to participate in decision making.
8. Ensure that individual trustees do not act independently of the Board's decisions.
9. Speak with one voice through its adopted policies and ensure that any disagreements with the Board's stance are resolved within the Board.
10. Avoid any conflicts of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
11. Recognise that individual trustees and subgroups make recommendations to the Board, and that only the full Board has the authority to direct the Principal or staff.
12. Recognise that only the Chair (working within the Board's agreed Chair role description or delegation) or a delegate working under written delegation, can speak for the Board.
13. Continually self-monitor their individual performance as trustees against policies and any other current Board evaluation tools.
14. Be willing to participate in professional development opportunities in order to make an effective contribution.
15. Read, understand and abide by the Trustees Ethical Code contained in the integrated Schools Handbook.

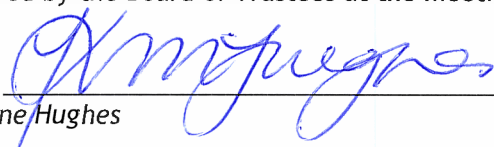
REVIEW:

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees triennially

REFERENCES:

1. NZSTA Policy Framework
2. NZSTA Trustee Handbook, Section A: Trusteeship
3. Integrated Schools Handbook - Appendix 9 Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of NZ Catholic Schools

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.

TRUSTEE DECLARATION

I, _____, have read and understood this Code of Conduct Policy and agree to follow and abide by it to the best of my ability.

Signed _____ Date _____

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Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of NZ Catholic Schools - February, 2014

As members of staff and as the Board of our Catholic school we are committed to students, parents and caregivers, the community and education itself. In order to serve effectively we are also committed to our own growth and wellbeing.

We commit ourselves to professional standards of conduct in all we do.

PRINCIPLE 1.0 COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS

- We put the well-being of our students first, respecting their rights and dignity as unique individuals, nurturing their individual sense of self-worth, and serving their spiritual, academic and human needs.
- We enable students to develop personal responsibility, including commitment to their own wellbeing, that of their community and the world.
- We help students to see the relevance of the Good News of Salvation, challenging them to live by gospel values in their daily lives, and developing their potential for Christian leadership in society.
- We focus on delivering the best possible educational programmes that suit each student, challenging them to achieve the highest possible standards which reflect their abilities.
- We work to deliver the best possible Religious Education programmes for our students, and to relate these programmes to their daily lives.
- We work to provide a safe physical and emotional learning environment for our students.
- We endeavour to exercise restorative justice in resolving discipline issues.

PRINCIPLE 2.0 COMMITMENT TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- We support parents and caregivers in their responsibility for their children’s education; therefore we treat them with respect at all times, collaborating with them and respecting their right to know, understand and share in decisions that affect the education and welfare of their children.
- We report their children’s progress regularly, and as needed, with professional clarity.
- We offer supportive ways to assist parents’ involvement in their children’s education and spiritual development.
- In our Religious Education and other programmes we work to enhance family life and the home-school relationship.
- We respect privacy and confidentiality of information.

PRINCIPLE 3.0 COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

- We are committed to serving all members of our school, co-operating in building our Catholic educational community, and refraining from doing anything that would bring the school into disrepute.
- We protect the reputation of students, parents, staff and Board members.
- We support the authority, decisions and leadership of our Catholic Bishops, our Proprietors and those who work to sustain and develop Catholic education.
- We support the integral relationship of the Catholic school and the Catholic parish.
- We promote the peace of Christ in the world by modelling co-operative behaviour and peaceful solutions to conflict.
- We support and work with other Catholic schools, for the good of the Catholic school system.
- We commit ourselves to honouring the Treaty of Waitangi.
- We actively value the ethnic diversity of New Zealand society.

PRINCIPLE 4.0 COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

- We understand and commit ourselves to the principles, ethos and Delivery of authentic Catholic education.
- We are committed to deepening our professional understanding, qualifications and knowledge of Catholic Character and Religious Education.
- We work in partnership with the Ministry of Education.
- We respect and support the work of all associated with the national education system.
- We contribute to wider educational debate and development in our society.
- We model and support professional behaviour within our school by conscientiously fulfilling our defined roles.
- We participate in ongoing professional development for the continual enhancement of teaching and learning.

PRINCIPLE 5.0 COMMITMENT TO OURSELVES

Recognising that we can only fulfil our responsibilities to others if we fulfil our responsibilities to ourselves:

- We nurture our spiritual growth and deepen our understanding of the teachings of Christ and his Church.
- We strive to live by values of truth, honesty, justice, goodness, love, compassion, reconciliation and respect for others.
- We sustain our personal wellbeing, striving for balance in our work, recreation, rest and emotional life.

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Signed _____

Date _____