

## POLICY: CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER

### Purpose

The Catholic Special Character of Trinity Catholic College is the provision of a Catholic education led by the Gospel values.

### Policy Objectives

To bring to life the Mission statement of the college *“Trinity Catholic College exists to promote excellence in learning and teaching in a climate of faith and pastoral care for the Catholic community of Dunedin”*

### Delegations

The Special Character Committee, composed of Board of Trinity Catholic College members, the DRS and Principal, will ensure that all decisions and actions undertaken by the Board promote and enhance the Catholic Special Character of the College.

### Expectations and Limitations

The Board of Trinity Catholic College through the Principal must:

- ensure that the college policies and processes reflect the values of Jesus Christ and Catholic special character as provided for in the Private Colleges’ Conditional Integration Act 1975 and the Integration Agreement for this college
- acknowledge the Bishop of Dunedin as the Proprietor of the College
- ensure that College life is centred on the person of Christ and inspired by his living spirit
- ensure that Catholic special character underpins all activities of the college, and influences the delivery of the entire curriculum
- ensure the dignity of each person is upheld with a focus on restorative practice, care, and forgiveness
- ensure all students undertake a course of religious education according to direction from the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference
- provide opportunities for sharing in the sacraments and the wider life of the Catholic church
- require that the attitudes, values and conduct of the staff reflect Gospel values and support the Catholic special character of the college
- acknowledge and honour the charisms of the founding orders - Christian Brothers, Dominicans and Sisters of Mercy
- provide students with opportunities to witness and share the truth of the Gospel, and encourage them to live the Gospel values, particularly the values of Respect, Service, Justice and Truth.
- develop student awareness of social justice issues in the light of Catholic social teaching; and promote an attitude of respect and responsible stewardship for earth

- value and reflect the Treaty of Waitangi through bi-cultural relationships, imagery and signs
- ensure the physical environment reflects Catholic faith
- ensure that all staff receive an appropriate induction programme and ongoing professional learning to develop their understanding of the implications and obligations of Catholic special character.

## **Monitoring and Reporting**

The Special Character Committee will

- report regularly to the Board of Trinity Catholic College on matters relating to the Catholic special character of the college
- lead annual internal evaluation based on the three dimensions of the NZCEO external review document
- complete an annual compliance attestation based on review of dimension four of the NZCEO external review document

## **Legislative Compliance**

Private Colleges Conditional Integration Agreement 1975

Education (Update) Amendment Act, 2017

Trinity Catholic College Integration Agreement

## **Ratified by Board: Signed for Board**



Date: 13 September, 2023

Responsibility:	Board of Trinity Catholic College
Reviewed:	September 2023
Next review date:	September 2026
Policy:	Special character

### Related Documents

- The current Handbook for Board of Trinity Catholic College of Catholic Integrated Colleges
- Catholic Special Character Review for Development, NZCEO
- Curriculum Delivery Policy
- Laudato Si' – encyclical Pope Francis
- Pastoral Care Policy