



POLICY 1.6
Special Character of the
College

Ratified at Board Meeting	27.10.2016
Next Review Due	2019

RATIONALE:

The daily life of the College should be permeated with the teachings of Jesus Christ as determined by the Catholic Church. Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others. First and foremost Aquinas College is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth. Help students develop knowledge and appreciation of their faith, the traditions, and teachings of the Catholic Church, most importantly through providing opportunities of encounter with the living Christ, and through the provision of religious instruction to students of Aquinas College in accordance with the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975.

GUIDELINES:

- Aquinas College policies and structures reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ and the College Touchstones.
- Aquinas College's physical environment reflects the Special Character of the school ethos.
- Aquinas College will provide opportunities for students to develop knowledge and appreciation of their faith, the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church through the provision of religious instruction to students.
- Aquinas College will monitor the provision of religious instruction and Special Character through regular reporting to the Board of Trustees and school community.
- Assist and encourage all Staff in their on-going understanding of the Special Character of the College, in their work, attitudes and relationships with students, colleagues and wider community.
- In recognition of the evangelising role of the College, there will be on-going liaison with the Parishes, particularly in relation to the sacramental programme, youth groups and other service/ministry opportunities within the Parish.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Principal, SLT and Director of Special Character will provide opportunities for the Trustees, staff, parents and students to participate in Sacramental or Liturgical celebrations(including Reconciliation).
2. The Principal, SLT, Director of Special Character and student leaders will promote the Catholic Character of the College.
3. Help students develop knowledge and an appreciation of their faith, the traditions, and teachings of the Catholic Church by implementing the approved National Curriculum of Religious Education in Catholic Schools.
4. The Parish Priest, Principal or delegated representative will support the provision of a College chaplaincy service to enhance the Spiritual Life of the School.
5. The Principal (with support from the Director of Special Character) will report regularly to the Board of Trustees and parent community on matters relating to the Special Character of the College. This may be via the Principal's Report to the BOT, R.E faculty Report, newsletters to the school community and the College website.
6. Assist newly appointed Staff in their understanding of the Special Character of the College through offering Catholic Character professional development as required in the Handbook NZ Catholic Integrated Schools.
7. All staff who teach RE are required to have, or be working towards, a qualification in Catholic Character (Handbook NZ Catholic Integrated Schools).
8. Ensure there is a time of prayer at meetings, in Tutor classes and in RE classes.
9. The Director of Special Character will liaise with the Parish/ Parish Priest regarding students interested in the sacraments.
10. The Director of Special Character will liaise with the Parish/ Parish Priest to facilitate opportunities for students to be involved with their Parish, such as youth groups, service/ministry.