



# **St. Joseph's Catholic School, Grey Lynn**

*Established 1884*

## **POLICY: SPECIAL CATHOLIC CHARACTER AND PASTORAL CARE**

### **RATIONALE**

The Special Catholic Character and Pastoral Care of St Joseph's builds up relationships to others as companions of Jesus Christ on a Christ-centred journey, reverencing and responding to the dignity of each other and being mindful of, and responding to, people needs. The on-going enhancement of the Special Character is the responsibility of the Principal and the Director of Religious Studies, ably supported by the whole faith community of the Board of Trustees, Parish Priest, staff, parents/caregivers and students.

### **PURPOSE**

- 1) To live the Gospel values of Jesus Christ through the Charism of Mary MacKillop.
- 2) To ensure that staff in both their teaching and conduct, supports the school's Special Catholic character.
- 3) To enable the Gospel values of Jesus Christ to enhance the wider activities and learning experiences of school and home.
- 4) To respond to the needs and support of people in our community.

### **GUIDELINES**

- 1) To provide a safe, nurturing environment for all in the school community.
- 2) Ensure on-going training for staff members to achieve the minimum of 12 credits every year, so that the Religious Education Program is taught effectively and funds are provided for resources.
- 3) Provide support for families who are having difficulties in areas relating to school life.
- 4) Display an attitude of service and caring by supporting organisations such as CARITAS, 7 Days of Caring.
- 5) Provide assistance for parents/caregivers to understand the Special Catholic Character and their responsibilities in preservation of this.
- 6) There will be daily prayer, staff prayer, reflection, liturgies and Masses.
- 7) Release time to be given to Director of Religious Studies in order for them to attend DRS meetings and run special programs within the school.
- 8) Staff to be taken through the Pastoral Care Policy at the beginning of each school year. Components of Pastoral Care Policy to be included in employment pack given to applicants for positions.
- 9) Appoint staff members who will commit themselves to reflect on, support and uphold the Special Catholic Character.
- 10) Ensure that the school's policies, statements, goals and objectives of the school reflect the Special Catholic Character.



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## **CONCLUSION**

That through the school program and religious instructions and observances, the whole community will endeavour to live the teachings of Jesus Christ in the spirit of Mary Mackillop.

St Joseph's recognises that parents are the prime educators of their children and the program and the school environment will reflect and reinforce their faith and values.

| <b><u>DECEMBER Review when necessary</u></b>                                  |                |               |               |
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| COMMENTS (select from): Approved / Ratified / To be amended / To be rewritten |                |               |               |
| <b>Year</b>   | <b>Comment</b> | <b>Action</b> | <b>Signed</b> |
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**This policy will be reviewed according to the Board's Effectiveness Review Programme**

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Chairperson

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Date