

## Our Lady of Lourdes School Policy

### **SPECIAL CHARACTER**

#### **Rationale**

The Private Schools Conditional Integration Act, 1975 provides for Integrated Schools to deliver education with a Special Character. This means providing an environment where people experience, learn and live out the values of Jesus Christ in accordance with the worship, teaching and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.

#### **Guidelines**

The Catholic School Community will endeavour:

1. To help students grow in their personal relationship with God.
2. To foster self esteem and respectful relationships based on a commitment to the dignity, culture and equality of all persons, and modeled on gospel values.
3. To teach and maintain all Christian values including: reconciliation, justice, integrity of the environment, honesty, peace and a preferential option for the disadvantaged.
4. To encourage concern for others through the practice of pastoral care of, and by, all those associated with the school community.
5. To foster an awareness in students of their wider membership in the church universal, and their responsibility in it's mission.

#### **Procedures**

The school will:

1. Adhere to the Catholic Character goals and objectives as outlined in the Charter document.
2. Provide systematic instruction and assessment of faith via the Religious Education Programme approved by the Bishop of Palmerston North, as well as utilising other resources.
3. Develop a daily prayer life through the school.
4. Provide opportunities for students and parents to participate in celebrations of the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation and other liturgical celebrations.
5. Establish a sound working, worshipping and pastoral relationship with the Parish.
6. Ensure that all systems and policies within the school reflect the Catholic Character as provided for in the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act, 1975 and in the Integration Agreement for the school.
7. Provide staff and members of the Board of Trustees with opportunities for ongoing development in their faith and a deepening awareness of their participation in the teaching and pastoral mission of the Church.
8. Develop and carry out a process of annual review of catholic character that will focus on the areas of curriculum, pastoral care, spiritual climate, statutory requirements and report annually to the local Bishop by way of the Proprietor's Report.
9. Ensure that the physical environment of the school is reflective of Catholic culture.
10. Provide a Pastoral Care statement.
11. Provide ongoing professional development adhering to the minimum requirements as outlined by the Bishop.
12. Ensure job descriptions and appraisal goals include a special character dimension.

Signed: .....Chairperson

Date: ...../...../.....

Review: 2018