



CATHOLIC Schools
in New Zealand

NZ Catholic Education Office

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life

society

education

The Nature of Catholic Schools

- Catholic schools are established to support parents in their responsibility for their children's education, and to contribute to the fulfilment of the Church's mission to educate. They are places where quality teaching and learning take place in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.



- Schools share with parents and parishes the role of educating young people.
- Catholic schools in New Zealand are at the interface of many different understandings of life, of society, and of education. Perhaps the most challenging of these is the contrast between the Christian approach to education, which is based on the understanding of all life as God's gift, and other approaches to education, which are secular in nature.



The Uniqueness and Value of the Individual

- The education offered enables all students to develop their talents to the full, and to fulfil their unique role in creation. Respect and support for individuals reflect our belief in the uniqueness and dignity of the individual, made in God's image and loved by God.

Educational Philosophy

- Striving for excellence in all its dimensions is at the heart of the Christian message and is the framework within which Catholic schools operate.
- A philosophy of education which focuses on establishing high standards and expectations of achievement for students and staff is the hallmark of authentic Catholic education.
- Providing opportunities for young people to genuinely work towards achieving their potential, whatever their talents happen to be, is fundamental to quality Catholic education.

The School Curriculum

- All aspects of the curriculum and its delivery reflect the fact that Christ is the foundation of the educational enterprise in a Catholic school. The overall purpose of the school is to prepare young people for their life as Christians in the community, and to enable them to serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world.



The Mission of the School

All aspects of a Catholic school, the academic work, the relationships, the priorities, the aims and objectives, the pastoral care and discipline, have the potential to speak of God's loving care for each person involved in the school's life.

God is at the centre of the learning process and is the ultimate purpose of schooling, as of all aspects of life. Christ's love permeates all that occurs in the school.