

## Topic: Religious Education

### Rationale

Through the Special Catholic Character, Sancta Maria Catholic Primary School provides a faith environment for children to experience Catholic life and to be evangelised and catechised, “For we walk by faith, not by sight” *2 Corinthians 5:7*. Through the Religious Education curriculum the school provides opportunities for children to learn what it is to be Catholic – that is, what Catholics believe and how they celebrate, live and pray (*Religious Education Curriculum Statement, Page 6*).

### Purpose

- To ensure Religious Education is an Essential Learning Area and will have prime importance in our school programme and that it is an integral part of the Catholic Special Character of our school.
- The programme will be based on the Religious Education Curriculum Statement for Catholic Primary Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand and support by the REBD.

### Guidelines

1. Provide opportunities for students to encounter Jesus in their lives.
2. Encourage children to develop a personal faith through prayer, worship and Catholic Spirituality.
3. Teach and learn about our Catholic beliefs, doctrines and traditions, through our Mary Charism.
4. Develop appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes and values through the effective delivery of the *Learning Strand* and *Learning Modules* in the Religious Education programme.
5. Integrate aspects of Religious Education with other Essential Learning Areas where appropriate (*Religious Education Curriculum Statement, Page 12*).
6. The Religious Education programmes will acknowledge Maori Spirituality and the important relationship between faith and culture.
7. Provide an ever deepening awareness of God's unconditional love.
8. Help students and staff search for moral responses to problems that arise in everyday life and develop ways of integrating faith and life with culture.
9. Develop an understanding and an appreciation of Sacred Scripture.
10. Encourage parents in the faith education of their children and ensure parents are regularly kept informed.

## Sancta Maria Catholic Primary School Policy 2019

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11. Funding for resources, programme implementation and Professional Development will receive top priority in the allocation of funds.
12. The school will liaise with the Parish Priest, parents and community in Sacramental Programmes and in the Religious Education Curriculum.
13. Catholic values will be promoted and brought to life through our virtues in all aspects of school life.

## Conclusion

Our school recognises that parents are the first teachers of faith to their children. These guidelines are designed to reinforce and develop that faith. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" *Romans 10:17*

**Approved on:** 19 March 2019

BOT Chairperson *Mario Barbafiera*

Principal *Gina Benade*

**To be reviewed** in accordance with the Board's self-review programme – in 2022