

St John Bosco School

Next review: Term 1 2027

Special Character

St John Bosco School's learning programmes are grounded on "Focused Foundations and Faith for the Future". Our community works and teaches alongside the gospel values of love, service, cooperation, and resilience.

St John Bosco School provides an education with a special character, which we reflect through the general school programme, and our teaching and conduct. Our [proprietor](#) is responsible for supervising the maintenance and preservation of our Catholic special character, and has the right to determine what is necessary to preserve and safeguard it (Education and Training Act 2020, Schedule 6, clause 1).

Our strategic planning reflects the Catholic special character of St John Bosco School. We consult with the [school community](#), including our proprietor, to determine our special character aims and our strategies to fulfil them.

Our integration agreement sets out conditions that support the safeguarding of our Catholic special character, including conditions for employment, enrolment, and property. It is a condition of enrolment at St John Bosco School that students are expected to participate in the [general school programme](#) that gives the school its special character.

See [Proprietor and Integration Agreement](#).

The Catholic special character of St John Bosco School is defined in our integration agreement as:

"The school is a Roman Catholic school in which the whole school community, through the general school programme and its religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are as expressed in the Scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, as determined from time to time by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese."

We ensure school operations support the goals of Catholic education, as provided by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, which are to:

- provide a genuine encounter with Jesus Christ, leading to a committed relationship with Him
- create a deep desire to grow in knowledge of Christ, His teachings, and His Church
- bring Catholic faith, culture, and life into harmony
- communicate Christ's Gospel of love, mercy, and justice in both word and deed.

Our Catholic school is a place where students, staff, and parents encounter the living Christ. The school strives to be a Catholic community, which is called to live the Gospel message in all it teaches and stands for, in which faith, culture, and life are brought into harmony. Our school is embedded in our Church; it is our Church in action, and an authentic expression of the Church's mission.

Board responsibility

The board of St John Bosco School has a responsibility to uphold the Catholic special character of our school, and to ensure that the vision and strategic direction of the school reflects our Catholic special character. The board works in consultation with the proprietor to ensure our special character is maintained and preserved, and provides the proprietor with an annual compliance attestation to describe how the school is complying with its special character obligations.

Proprietor's appointees on the board consult with the proprietor or their agent on a regular basis. Appointees provide reports to the proprietor at least annually about the state of Catholic special character at the school, and all matters related to it.

See [Board Responsibilities](#).

Special character evaluation

St John Bosco School participates in regular internal and external evaluations of our Catholic special character. The purpose of evaluation is to determine what is being done to safeguard and strengthen our Catholic special character, to evaluate the impact of these actions, and to assure the proprietor and our school community that the school provides an authentic Catholic education. Our strategic planning is informed by our internal and external evaluation findings, with the aim of continuing to strengthen our Catholic special character.

Our evaluation process aligns with the four dimensions of Catholic Special Character Evaluation for Development:

- **Encounter with Christ** – Te Tūtaki ki a Te Karaiti
- **Growth in Knowledge** – Mā te Mātauranga ka Tipu
- **Christian Witness** – Te Whakaatu Karaitiana
- **Safeguarding and Strengthening Catholic Character** – Te Kaitiakitanga me te Whakapakari i te Tuakiri Katorika

See [Catholic special character evaluation for development](#) [↗](#) (NZCEO).

Internal evaluation

We follow an internal self-review cycle of our Catholic special character. We undertake this internal evaluation to determine what is being done to safeguard and strengthen our Catholic special character. We aim to be culturally responsive in our evaluation by recognising Te Tiriti o Waitangi, engaging with mana whenua and local Katorika Māori, and considering te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori as part of the evaluation process.

The board regularly reviews how well it is meeting its Catholic special character obligations, and reports on this through the annual compliance attestation to the proprietor. Proprietor's appointees on the board also provide an [annual report](#) on special character matters to the proprietor.

External evaluation

St John Bosco School participates in an external evaluation of our Catholic special character every 3 to 4 years. External evaluation by Diocesan evaluators provides information about on how the school is upholding its special character, the impact of Catholic schooling, and the effectiveness of its goals on the lives of all tamariki and rangatahi, as well as how the school is meeting legislative and regulatory requirements.

The Education Review Office (ERO) also monitors the special character of state-integrated schools as part of its regular review process. St John Bosco School provides evidence to ERO about the maintenance of our Catholic special character.

Related policies

- [Proprietor and Integration Agreement](#)
- [Board Responsibilities](#)
- [School Planning and Reporting](#)

Legislation

- Education and Training Act 2020

Resources

- New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference: [Catholic Education of -Age Children](#) [↗](#)
- New Zealand Catholic Education Office | Te Tari Mātauranga Katorika o Aotearoa:
 - [Catholic special character evaluation for development](#) [↗](#)
 - [Board of Trustees Handbook](#) [↗](#)
 - [Special Character](#) [↗](#) (links to helpful resources, including Code of Ethics for Catholic Schools)

Release history: [Term 3 2024](#), [Term 3 2022](#)

IN THIS SECTION

[Encounter with Christ](#)

[Growth in Knowledge](#)

[Christian Witness](#)

[Safeguarding and Strengthening Catholic Character](#)

Last review	Term 1 2024
Topic type	Core