

St Columba's Catholic School

Catholic Character Policy

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 2015

Rationale:

To ensure the School, through its teaching and example, will provide education, which reflects Catholic Beliefs and Traditions and allows students the opportunity to Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus.

Purpose:

1. To acknowledge the Sisters of the Mission as the schools' Founding Order.
2. To acknowledge the role of parents in the development of their children's faith.
3. To provide opportunities for students to participate in various forms of prayer and liturgy.
4. To provide opportunities for community prayer and celebration.
5. To provide opportunities for faith development of students and parents.
6. To develop a living Catholic Faith Community who Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus.

Guidelines:

1. The Staff will gather regularly for prayer, faith development and preparation for teaching the programme.
2. The School will support the Parish in its mission.
3. Each Board of Trustees, P.T.F.A. or Community Meeting will start and end with a prayer.
4. The School will promote the Cornerstone Values of Respect, Faith, Love, Honesty and Care within the School.
5. Signs and symbols of our Catholic Faith will have prominence in the School.
6. The School will encourage and actively support the Parish and parents in their involvement in Sacramental programmes.
7. The School will provide a welcoming and caring environment for parents, staff and pupils.
8. The School will effectively communicate with parents about the Religious Education Programme, i.e. calendar overview for the term, inclusion in class and school newsletter information pertaining to current Learning Strand, Masses and Liturgies.

9. Items related to the Catholic Character of the School will be reported on, at the Board of Trustees Meeting.
10. The School will provide opportunities for students involvement in School Masses and Liturgies.
11. All parents will be made aware of the Catholic Character of the school and their responsibilities in upholding this.
12. Opportunities will be provided to celebrate significant events in the Churches Liturgical Calendar.
13. Students will be encouraged to be involved in activities that promote Social Justice eg. Young Vinnies, CARITAS and various funding ventures.

Conclusion:

St. Columba's Catholic School will provide a supportive and enriching environment for children to learn about and grow in the Catholic Faith.

Approved by the Board of Trustees 2015

Chairperson