



Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth

BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Outcome statement

The board will act in an ethical and just manner, always maintaining the dignity of all people.

Scoping

Every member of the board will have access to and understand the:

- Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of New Zealand Catholic Schools (NZCEO 2014)
- Board code of conduct

And have opportunities to discuss expectations of their behaviour.

Board business will be conducted in light of Catholic special character and in a way that is ethical and just, in accordance with:

- Legislation,
- the principles of Catholic social teaching, particularly the dignity of the human person and the common good,
- board policy.

Expectations and limitations

As members of an effective governance team, each member of the board shall:

- commit themselves to the principles, ethos and delivery of Catholic education
- ensure the needs of all students, their faith development, and their achievement is paramount
- uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- act for the common good of the school community, and the Catholic education network
- be loyal to the school and its mission
- maintain and understand the goals of the school
- understand and uphold the Gospel values and charism of the school
- publicly represent the school in a positive manner
- respect the integrity and human dignity of the principal, staff, whānau/families, and students
- observe the confidentiality of non-public information acquired in their role as a member of the board and not disclose to any other persons such information that might be harmful to the school
- be diligent and attend board meetings prepared for full and appropriate participation in decision making
- ensure that individual board members do not act independently of the board's decisions
- speak with one voice through board policies and ensure that any disagreements with the board's stance are resolved within the board in a just manner protecting the dignity of all
- in the course of board meetings, disclose any interests in a transaction or decision where they, their family and/or partner, employer or close associate will receive a benefit or gain and leave the meeting for the duration of discussion and/or voting in relation to the matter
- recognise the lack of authority in any individual board member or committee/working party of the board in any interaction with the principal or staff
- recognise that only the presiding member (working within the board's agreed presiding member role description or delegation) or a delegate working under written delegation can speak for the board
- continually self-monitor their individual performance as a member of the board against policies and any other current board evaluation tools.

Procedures/supporting documentation

[*Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of New Zealand Catholic Schools*](#)

[*The Catholic Education of School-Age Children \(New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2014\)*](#)

[*The Philosophy of Catholic Schools in New Zealand*](#)

[*The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*](#)

Monitoring

- Refer to procedures attached to Documentation Review & Reporting Policy
- Refer to review required in Board Roles & Responsibilities Policy

Legislative compliance

[Education & Training Act 2020](#)

[Education \(School Boards\) Regulations 2020](#)

Reviewed: March 2024	Next Reviewed: March 2027
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Signed (Presiding Member): 	Date of Board Meeting reviewed and accepted: Wednesday 27 March 2024
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