

# St Pius X Catholic School Te Kura O Hato Paea New Plymouth



Knowing ... Doing ... Caring  
Mōhiotanga... Mahinga... Manaakitanga

## SCHOOL CHARTER 2018-2020

Strategic Goals and  
Planned Actions

## **Our Shared Vision**

Within our Catholic community, we empower learners to strive for personal excellence and to be future focused.

### **How we make our Vision real**

The St Pius X motto is “Knowing – Doing – Caring, Mōhiotanga – Mahinga – Manaakitanga. At St Pius X Catholic School, Jesus and His teachings are at the heart of everything we do. We are encouraged and inspired to grow in faith and to learn more about being a member of the Catholic Church. We are a welcoming community who responds practically, with compassion, understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others. We participate positively in service to contribute to the common good of all.

Everyone has a place here. In our safe and inclusive environment we embrace and value diversity. We recognise and respect the uniqueness of every individual within the school community as made in the image and likeness of God. We acknowledge and accept that there is more than one way to achieve the same goal. We value and encourage the development and sharing of everyone’s unique ideas, talents, skills, passions and culture. We understand the importance of supporting everyone to be the best they can be in their daily lives.

We are a family/whanau school. Best learning happens when strong, respectful partnerships are formed and nurtured within our community. Open communication and on-going conversations allow family/whanau to contribute to and share in their children's learning in a way that is positive and supportive. Our teachers are highly motivated and understand that achievement and engagement are strongly influenced by effective teaching. They regularly review what they do and how their teaching impacts on student learning.

Learning experiences are purposeful and take place through meaningful, real life contexts and future focussed issues. Through engagement in learning, and a positive learning environment with high expectations, high levels of motivation, and positive relationships, our learners learn how to learn and are encouraged and supported to reach their potential. Their successes are nurtured and celebrated.

Through enjoyment in learning, we are able to embrace the future.

## **Introduction to our Charter**

Strategic planning is the process by which we have identified our aims and set about in a systematic way, to achieve them.

The strategic plan document 2018-2020 shows this Board of Trustees is giving effect to the National Education Guidelines, through policies, plans and programmes, including those for curriculum assessment and staff professional development.

In preparing this strategic plan, the Board has been mindful of the aspirations of our Shared Vision and the community this school serves.

The community hold a strong vision for the future for the children at St Pius X Catholic School. The community sees as vital (and the foundation for faith to develop and learning to occur) the development of a core set of Gospel Values.

The community is proud of the school as a place where change is embraced and risk taking and innovation among its staff and students is encouraged. The Board and community consider the staff to be the most important learning tool and actively support them as learners and leaders.

There are many important strategic decisions that have been made in the creation of this plan. Some involve immediate action and others require considerable, on-going action and focus.

After a period of time and review, it may be that there are changes to this plan. We embrace the future together.

## **Background Information on our School Community**

St Pius X School is a year 1-6 Catholic Integrated Primary School that offers a Catholic education for up to 190 children.

It is centrally located in Brooklands Road, New Plymouth and is part of the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.

The school is a Roman Catholic School in which the whole community, through general school programmes and in Religious Education and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ.

Physically the school is divided into two areas. The long main L shaped Block which includes our administration area, six classrooms, the staffroom, a library and a two toilet blocks. The other main area is a multi-purpose stand-alone building.

There are two main play areas for children – the adventure playground and hard court areas at the front of the school, and the back field area with a hard court available for use under adult supervision.

St Pius X School is a small urban Catholic School – the smallest of the three Catholic Primary Schools in New Plymouth, with a strong faith and family atmosphere.

Teachers, children, family/whanau know each other. The school draws from a community that values education and is very supportive of school and parish activities. It has a decile ranking of 9. The community understands that locally raised funds are required to support the Government Operations Grant so that the level of service we provide is maintained and developed. The majority of the school's population is New Zealand European although we have increasing diversity. We have a stable roll with very few transient children.

Our families and the school have high expectations for success. We provide a range of sport, cultural and extra-curricular activities and learning support programmes.

There is a strong relationship between the school and our parents. They are widely consulted and are informed of school activities. Parents take an active interest in the school and are visible in a range of activities both in and outside the classroom. A sense of family/whanau and community is an important aspect of St Pius X Catholic School.

# Our Special Character

St Pius X Catholic School was established in May 1951 and was staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Their great work was carried on, in 1982, by the Mission Sisters.

Our school is a family school that recognises and respects the dignity of each person as made in the image and likeness of God.

St Pius X was considered a holy person by many. He often referred to his own humble origins, taking up the causes of poor people. "I was born poor, I lived poor, and I wish to die poor."

The community of St Pius X Catholic School follows this in living our school motto Knowing - Doing - Caring, Mōhiotanga - Mahinga - Manaakitanga.

St Pius X Feast Day is August 21<sup>st</sup> and we celebrate this day in conjunction with Grandparents Day.

St Pius X School community has strong link with the parishioners of the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth. Staff and families of the school community are actively involved in parish life.

## Our Gospel Values

Values are deeply held beliefs about what is important or desirable. They are expressed through the ways in which people think and act.

We show Jesus' example of LOVE by living these Gospel Values in a Catholic faith community:

**Community – Hapori**

**Compassion – Aroha**

**Truth – Pono**

**Service – Ratonga**



# 2018 - 2020 Strategic Goals

## **GOAL 1**

**To nurture our Catholic Special Character**

**The ways we intend to enact this goal:**

- 1.1 Develop and live the Gospel Values by following in Jesus' footsteps.
- 1.2 Sustain and develop professional capability in relation to Special Character through effective professional development
- 1.3 Develop a process of internal evaluation for the Special Catholic Character of the school
- 1.4 Continue to nurture positive relationships with Parish and School Community

## **GOAL 2**

**To actively empower all learners through an innovative and future focused curriculum**

**The ways we intend to enact this goal:**

- 2.1 Promote continuous improvement in all areas of the curriculum monitored through progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
- 2.2 Continue the professional development of staff to ensure consistency and excellence in formative practices and leadership capabilities.
- 2.3 Learning experiences are purposeful and take place through meaningful, real life contexts and future focused issues
- 2.4 Fully integrate the digital technology curriculum

## **GOAL 3**

**To be responsive and connected in pursuit of equity and excellence**

**The ways we intend to enact this goal:**

- 3.1 Provide engaging opportunities to foster the uniqueness and creativity of all learners so they will demonstrate the values and beliefs of a St Pius X Learner.
- 3.2 Provide resources and support so that all learners are able to participate and achieve success
- 3.3 Value our culture of collaboration, through continued effective communication strategies which enhance learning partnerships
- 3.4 Provide effective and culturally responsive pedagogy that supports and promotes Māori achieving success as Māori

## **GOAL 4**

**To develop strong internal evaluation processes**

**The ways we intend to enact this goal:**

- 4.1 Continuing internal evaluation to identify the impact of curriculum developments, effective practices & areas for further refinement in pursuit of equity & excellence

# Honouring Te Tiriti O Waitangi

Through the Catholic Special Character, the St Pius X Curriculum, the pedagogy of the school and through community relationships; St Pius X is committed to fostering the following in all aspect of school life:

## **Manaakitanga (Pastoral Care)**

Manaaki embodies the concepts of mana (authority) and aki (to encourage and acknowledge). Manaakitanga describes the immediate obligation and authority of the host to care for their visitor's emotional, spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing. Within this type of interaction there is a responsibility to provide reciprocal support.

At St Pius X this relates to the need to care for children and the families as culturally located human beings by providing a safe, nurturing environment. This will include developing and sustaining the language, culture and identity of every student to ensure that they have the best opportunity to learn and experience educational success. Through the reciprocal nature of manaakitanga, St Pius X will encourage the students and their whānau to actively contribute to this success.

## **Whanaungatanga**

Whakawhanaungatanga describes the process of establishing links, making connections, and relating to the people one meets by identifying in culturally appropriate ways, whakapapa linkages, past heritages, points of engagement, and other relationships.

Whanaungatanga affirms the centrality of extended family-like relationships: including beyond actual whakapapa relationships to include people who, through shared experiences, feel and act as kin. Whanaungatanga relationships are reciprocal: the group supports the individual with the expectation that the individual will support the group.

At St Pius X, whanaungatanga begins with quality teaching/learning relationships and interactions whereby a whanau environment supports engagement and learning.

## **Ako**

Ako describes a reciprocal teaching and learning relationship "where the child is both teacher and learner" and the teacher also learns from the child.

At St Pius X the concept of Ako is recognised through student's whanau being a part of learning and teaching.

## **Mahi tahi**

Mahi tahi (or mahi ngātahi) describes the unity of a group of people working towards a specific goal or on a specific task, often in a hands-on fashion. Mahi tahi builds relationships that can continue well after the goal has been fulfilled or the project completed

At St Pius X, mahi tahi describes our community working together collaboratively for the enrichment of our learners and the development of our school.