
REPORT SUMMARY

Sacred Heart Cathedral School is a full primary school located in the heart of Wellington, adjacent to St Mary's College, Sacred Heart Cathedral and the Catholic Centre. It is the only primary school in the Metropolitan Cathedral Parish of the Sacred Heart. It has a long history, having been founded in 1850, just 10 years after the Treaty of Waitangi was signed. It was one of the first Catholic schools in Wellington and run by the Sisters of Mercy. Today it continues on the same site with more than 200 students.

Relationships between staff and students are warm and respectful, and the dignity of each person is upheld through an inclusive culture. Students are courteous and helpful. The diverse cultures in the school are acknowledged visually and celebrated in a variety of ways that include the engagement and participation of parents and whanau. Visible signs that this is Catholic school are everywhere, with beautiful wall displays in all corridors, on staircases, in the library and in classrooms.

The leadership, staff, parish and community are committed to the school and willingly share their gifts and talents for the benefit of the students. The school has a strong relationship with the surrounding Catholic community, with regular visits from the Assistant Priest, Caritas, Challenge 2000 the Lay Pastoral Leader, and the Sisters of Mercy.

The nationally mandated Religious Education curriculum is being taught, and staff are in the process of developing a more integrated approach by using the Religious Education Bridging Document for planning and the principles of Catholic social teaching for the overarching themes.

Parents spoken to describe Sacred Heart as a caring community, a hallmark of which is the way senior students care for the younger ones, and where students are role models of Christianity in the way they treat one another. New students and their families are welcomed each term with a pōwhiri. New parents are welcomed with a special evening as well as a morning tea organised by the previous year's new parents. The school holds many liturgical and mass celebrations for Catholic Feast Days and special occasions throughout the year.

The principal, DRS and Board Chair are united in their commitment to leadership that is embedded in Catholic Character and work hard to ensure that Sacred Heart Cathedral School students experience the best possible education in a Catholic environment.