

11 December 2019

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Tēnā kōrua Bernadette & Suzanne

Congratulations to you, the staff, Board of Trustees and the parish-school faith whanau community of Sacred Heart Cathedral School on the recent Catholic Character Review and Development report which I have received on behalf of Cardinal John Dew, Archbishop of Wellington.

The Catholic Character Review provides a wonderful opportunity to affirm each school in the practices that support Catholic Character and its delivery of Religious Education. It also identifies ways for schools to enhance the good work that is already being carried out.

Our schools are deeply committed to providing an authentic and rich Catholic education for each student. Cardinal John's vision for all students is that they '*walk the way of Jesus, tell the truth of Jesus and live the life of Jesus*' which reflects the core purpose of a Catholic school. This vision is realised in conjunction with the provision of a holistic and excellent education for each student within a vibrant faith community.

This is certainly reflective of Sacred Heart Cathedral School which is authentically Catholic delivering Catholic education with excellence within a wider supportive Catholic faith community. All teaching and learning is underpinned by the school's mission statement "To educate our children within a Catholic environment to achieve their full spiritual, academic and personal potential".

When I read the report two quotes came to mind. Firstly, "Be it known to all who enter here that Jesus is the reason for this school. He is the unseen, yet ever present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its community and the inspiration of its children and teachers". Secondly from Romans 10 14-15, "How beautiful are the footsteps of those who bring Good News". Both speak of the strong faith leadership and gospel witness of staff and teachers and the many Catholic hearts of those who make up the Sacred Heart Cathedral school whanau and community. The report notes the dedication and commitment of parish and community to the school who give generously of their "time, talent and treasure" often beyond the call of duty for the benefit of the students. It is a community with active faith based professional leadership and governance, unified vision and great parish support. All are instrumental in creating an environment where students can encounter Jesus in daily school life within an affirming, culturally rich community.

The principal leads by example in a servant leadership, collaborative manner, professional, progressive and innovative. She is ably assisted by an experienced and conscientious DRS who together support a wonderful team of teaching staff. This is evident in their commitment to professional development for staff, the proactive and successful sacramental-baptism programme and the many evangelising opportunities provided for students and whanau. I was delighted to read of the continued focus to

explore ways to invite and include whanau in the Catholic Character and faith. Truly the evangelising Church in action. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to the whole team at Sacred Heart Cathedral School.

I acknowledge with deep gratitude the immense amount of work that has occurred since the last review in 2015. I wish the board and school community every success with implementing the recommendations made in the report. The Catholic Schools Education Services (CSES) is willing and able to assist the school develop a plan and implement these recommendations. Frank Wafer, Leadership Consultant and Alan Grant, the Primary Religious Education Consultant will be in contact with you shortly.

Cardinal John sends his congratulations and gratitude to the whole school whanau and faith community for their enduring commitment to ensure each child receives an excellent Catholic education at Sacred Heart Cathedral School.

My sincere thanks, too, for the generous work that you do for Sacred Heart Cathedral School and support of Catholic education.

In deep appreciation and with abundant Advent blessings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Gordon
Vicar for Education