

St Mary's School Charter

Mission Statement:

With Christ as our Centre we strive for excellence.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is an integrated Catholic school that caters for Year 1–6 students, drawn from Rotorua City and surrounding districts. It is a decile five school with approximately 400 students.

The school is well resourced, with high quality teachers, supportive parents and clear expectations and goals for our children. □ Children attending our school come from a number of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Our School:

- Is a community of learners.
- Has a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy.
- Places a high value on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Promotes Clarity in the Classroom.
- Is committed to providing a quality and child centred learning environment.
- Is a place where students experience success while working in challenging and meaningful learning environments.
- Enhances children's thinking and problem solving skills through high quality extension and enrichment programmes.
- Empowers students and staff to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of the Catholic community.
- Strives to identify At Risk and ELL students and provide programmes to support individual students learning needs.
- Has a concept based curriculum.
- Is committed to providing Leadership, Music, Sport and Cultural opportunities for students.
- Is working towards providing 21st Century classrooms where students create, explore and communicate in a global learning community.
- Is committed to developing the key competencies.
- Values a multicultural learning environment.

Vision:

St Mary's Catholic School is a community of learners who are striving to develop confident, connected, life-long learners.

Children:

- Are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning.
- Want to learn.
- Learn how to learn.

- Have high Literacy and Numeracy skills.
- Are encouraged and supported by staff and peers.
- Accept the strengths and weaknesses of themselves and others.
- Participate willingly in a wide range of extra curricular activities.
- Have access to information technology.
- Are provided with opportunities for Leadership, Team Work and the development of Life Skills.
- Model the values taught by Jesus Christ.
- Are conscious of what the special character of our school is and what it means to be a member of a Catholic Community.

Staff:

- Have high expectations of themselves, their colleagues and their students.
- Support each other.
- Work to address the needs of our pupils.
- Develop positive relationships with children, parents / caregivers to enhance each child's learning.
- Participate in ongoing and relevant professional development programmes.
- Regularly reflect on their own practice.
- Are role models.
- Promote the teachings of the Catholic Church through Religious Education.
- Provide quality learning environments.

The Board of Trustees:

- Provides the School Vision and its Strategic Direction.
- Provides quality Governance.
- Supports the Children, Principal and Teaching Staff.
- Fosters open communication.
- Participates in Professional Development.

Parents / Caregivers:

- Show support for, and a commitment to, the special character of the school.
- Actively support their child's/children's education.
- Share in the responsibility of their child's learning.
- Develop positive relationships with teachers to enhance each child's learning,
- Attend Parent Meetings and support school events.
- Are involved with and support the ongoing development of the school.

The St Mary's Catholic School Community:

Recognise the school is part of a local, regional and national Catholic Community.

Values & Skills:

We want our Children and Teachers to:

Display and develop:

- Independence
- Charity
- Justice
- Respect
- Self Esteem
- A Thirst for Learning

and to be:

- Problem Solvers
- Risk Takers (in a learning sense)
- Reflective
- Aware of their strengths and next learning steps
- Critical, Creative and Caring Thinkers
- Self Motivated
- Individual Life Long Learners

Cultural Diversity:

St Mary's Catholic School caters for Cultural Diversity by:

- Providing a supportive environment where children are encouraged to have pride in themselves and their culture.
- Acknowledging and valuing different cultures.
- Integrating Te Reo and Tikanga Maori within the classroom programmes.
- Providing cultural opportunities for students.
- Utilising community resources and resource personnel.
- If a request is made for instruction in and through Tikanga Maori and Te Reo Maori by a parent, the Board and Principal of St Mary's School will assist the parent to locate a suitable local alternative school to meet their needs.
- Currently, St Mary's School is unable to offer an immersion programme for Maori instruction.