

POLICY ON SPECIAL CHARACTER

RATIONALE

Baradene College of the Sacred Heart provides an education with a Special Character reflecting its Catholic faith and the five goals of Sacred Heart education.

Baradene College of the Sacred Heart is a Roman Catholic School for girls established by the Society of the Sacred Heart for the Roman Catholic community of the Diocese of Auckland which promotes and supports the school and of which the school is a part, to provide and to continue to provide education with a special character.

The school is a Roman Catholic School in which the whole school community through the general school programme and in its religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are as expressed in the Scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.

Baradene College Limited and the Board of Trustees are committed to ensuring that this special character is nurtured, developed and maintained.

PURPOSES

1. To offer the opportunity to develop a personal and ongoing relationship with the Living God, made known through Jesus Christ.
2. To offer an encounter with the heart of Jesus Christ through participation in the Sacraments.
3. To ensure the training and formation of the staff at Baradene is as Sacred Heart educators.
4. To ensure that the focus, when delivering the curriculum, is holistic and student-centred reflecting the mission and values of the Society of the Sacred Heart.
5. To make known to parents and the wider community the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart education.
6. To give students the knowledge, confidence and opportunity they need to make their contribution to the special character of Baradene.
7. To actively engage with the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart education.
8. To offer students the opportunity of studying religious traditions, in particular the living Catholic tradition and participation in programmes for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.
9. To participate in the mission of the wider Catholic Church and to maintain and encourage links with Sacred Heart schools around the world.

Baradene College of the Sacred Heart

GUIDELINES

1. Through the Religious Education programme, students receive a structured presentation of the Catholic faith within the wider background of Christian and other faiths, appropriate to their age and developmental stage.
2. Students are given the opportunity to participate in the Sacraments and to prepare and celebrate liturgies at all levels.
3. Students are given the opportunity to experience one Retreat annually.
4. All students are introduced to different forms of prayer and reflection and to the contemplative dimension of life.
5. Programmes to develop social awareness based on the Gospel values are implemented in the school.
6. All students are offered and encouraged to participate in a Sacramental Programme.
7. Staff are appointed who support the school's faith perspective and educational philosophy as expressed in the Goals and Criteria.
8. The Goals and Criteria are made available to prospective staff members who are asked to accept them as part of the conditions of their employment.
9. Teachers in tagged positions to model a genuine and ongoing relationship with the Living God.
10. The Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart education are made known to prospective parents and they are asked to enter into an active partnership with the school in living them out.
11. Students know and engage with the Goals and Criteria.
12. Staff are expected to incorporate the Goals into their planning and to participate in the school's self evaluation in annual and six-yearly cycles of reflection.
13. The Board of Trustees and BCL will ensure that Baradene follows an annual cycle of reflection of at least one Goal and a six-yearly cycle of reflection of all the Goals and Criteria of the Sacred Heart.
14. The Board of Trustees and BCL, together with the Principal, will ensure that staff receive in-service time and funding to understand the Catholic Christian world view.
15. All Heads of Faculty, in conjunction with their staff, will prepare or revise a statement, annually, in regard to how their Faculty reflects the Goals and Criteria of the College in its planning.

Baradene College of the Sacred Heart

16. The school values its membership within the Australian New Zealand Network of Sacred Heart schools and participates in its organisation and structure.
17. The school supports an interest in the works of Religious of the Sacred Heart in New Zealand and throughout the world.

Revised:	October 2014
Approved:	October 2008
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