

THE CHARACTER OF A CATHOLIC INTEGRATED SCHOOL

A BRIEF STATEMENT FOR THE INFORMATION OF PARENTS OF PREFERENCE STUDENTS

This statement is to be read prior to enrolment as a preference student in a Catholic Integrated School.

1. The Special Character of a Catholic Integrated School is defined in the school's Integration Agreement as follows:

"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, as determined from time to time by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese."

2. As a Catholic Integrated school it focuses on Christ, and has the following goals for your child:

- To develop a knowledge and understanding of the holy scriptures and a sensitivity to them as the Word of God speaking in our lives.
- To develop a knowledge of Catholic doctrine understood in the light of its development and tradition under the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.
- To develop an ability to pray which can grow and deepen.
- To develop an ability to understand and to share actively and personally in the liturgy.
- To promote a sense of belonging to the Church which will lead to an active participation in its life.
- To promote a faith which gives unity and meaning to personal life, to responsibilities and events which occur.
- To promote the ability to relate to others in a way that reflects the evangelical commandment of love.
- To develop the ability to make moral judgements and decisions and to see them as a way of realising a relationship with Christ.
- To promote the ability to discern Christian values in life in this world and to act in accordance with them.

3. Educational Philosophy:

Striving for excellence in all its dimensions is at the heart of the Christian message and is the framework within which Catholic schools operate. Our philosophy of education focuses on establishing high standards and expectations of achievement for students and staff as this is the hallmark of authentic Catholic education. Providing opportunities for young people to genuinely work towards achieving their potential, whatever their talents happen to be, is fundamental to quality Catholic education.

4. The Uniqueness and Value of the Individual:

The education offered enables all students to develop their talents to the full, and to fulfill their unique role in creation. Respect and support for individuals reflect the belief in the uniqueness and dignity of the individual, made in God's image and loved by God.

5. The School Curriculum:

All aspects of the curriculum and its delivery reflect the fact that Christ is the foundation of the educational enterprise in a Catholic school. The overall purpose of the school is to prepare young people for their life as Christians in the community, and to enable them to serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

6. A Catholic Integrated School:

As an Integrated school, the school which you have chosen and requested enrolment for your child will conform to all the standards set by the State in matters such as buildings, maintenance and equipment, staffing, administration, curriculum and teaching standards