

# The Catholic Character of Liston College

A brief statement for the information of Teachers

This statement should be read in association with the Liston College Charter, a copy of which is available from the College office.

The Special Character of any Catholic school is defined in the Integration Agreement, as follows:

“The School is Roman Catholic 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 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.”

A teacher applying for a position and/or teaching in a Catholic school needs to understand the commitment this involves:

1. All teachers, whether Catholic or not, are part of this “whole school community.” Each teacher is therefore expected to use his or her specific skills to achieve the purposes of Liston College.
2. Liston College assists the Church in its mission. It does this by helping its pupils to become complete persons, that is to say persons with knowledge, faith and norms of living, which are harmonised.
3. All subjects are taught for their own value and with their own objectives. Catholics believe in the value of all human knowledge, as it is part of God’s truth.
4. The Religious Education Programme is an integral part of the Curriculum. The principles, truths and ethics of that programme permeate whatever the school does. The focal point of the whole school is Christ. The pupils are taught that God is Creator, that Jesus is God-made-man, that their ultimate goal is salvation, that the authority to teach and interpret God’s revelation was entrusted to the Church, and is exercised by the Pope and the Bishops. Liston College as a whole subscribes to the Apostles’ Creed, which is the oldest of the formulas used by the Christians to express their faith. It accepts the two-fold commandment of Christ – love of God, love of neighbour and the other values expressed by Christ as norms of living.
5. No teacher will be required to act against his./her own conscience or personal philosophy of life. This would be unchristian, and contrary to the aims of Liston College. However, in accepting a position at Liston College it is assumed that the teacher realises that:
  - Teachers work as a team. Therefore all teachers are expected to contribute according to their individual strengths and within their personal convictions, to the total purpose of Liston College. No school can operate successfully if any member undermines the efforts of others..
  - Teachers are role models. A school community rightly expects teachers to act so as to be appropriate models for its young people. Behaviour by a teacher which would give the school community grounds for thinking that a teacher’s attitude is antagonistic to the Special Character of the school, would not only be

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COLLEGE

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unprofessional, it would damage or even destroy that teacher's effectiveness and credibility.

- Teachers at Liston College who do not profess Catholicism, are expected to promote the Catholic Character of the College where possible, and at the same time to refrain from doing or saying anything which would be antithetical to the College's 'Special Character'. While not expected to take part in Religious practices – Mass, Reconciliation and the like – they are expected to be present at such practices as part of their normal duties to assist with supervision and organisation of pupils.

6. New teachers will find senior staff willing to assist them in gaining a fuller understanding of Liston college and its Special Character, along with solving any difficulties that may arise in the course of their teaching responsibilities. In addition, the following will be found helpful: (copies will be found at Liston College):

- We Live and Teach Chris Jesus – NZ Catechetical Directory  
NZ Catholic Bishop's Conference, 1974
- The Catholic School  
Congregation for Faith Education, 1977
- Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith  
Congregation for Catholic Education, 1982
- The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School  
Congregation for Catholic Education, 1988
- The Church's Confession of Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults  
German Bishop's Conference, St Ignatius Press, 1977 (San Francisco)
- Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church  
June 1994

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Name

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Signed

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Date