



**Archdiocese  
OF Wellington**

Office of the Vicar for Education  
Te Pou Ārahi o te Mātauranga

2 September 2016

Mary Gray and Julie Howden  
Principal and Board Chairperson  
St Joseph's School  
30 Ludstone Road  
Kaikoura 7300

Dear Mary and Julie

Congratulations to you, the staff, Board of Trustees and the school-parish faith community of St Joseph's 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 supports 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 true of St Joseph's School and I quote from the report, *"Students are able to articulate their understanding of the reason for their attendance at St Joseph's School. We believe in God and this school is allowed to teach us about God and how to follow in Jesus' footsteps"*. The School has an obvious and strong Catholic ethos which provides a safe environment for all members of its community to live, work and thrive in. I was delighted to read of the good work which is occurring in two areas. The integration of Religious Education (RE) into contexts that are meaningful to students' world view and the commitment to meet the required number of hours for RE.

I was also delighted to hear of the efforts to increase parent's understanding of what their child is learning in RE through the school newsletter. This is wonderful evangelisation as is the strong focus on the sacramental life of students.

Creating such a community of strong faith and spirituality, effective teaching and learning where staff are formed and mentored is exceptional. It comes about because of the caring and supportive leadership and vocation of the Principal, the dedicated staff, the committed and able Board delivering effective governance and a mutually supportive parish-school relationship under the leadership of the Lay Pastoral Leader.

This is truly a school living the vision of a Catholic school and delivering aspirational education for its students. Great credit, admiration and gratitude goes to all involved.

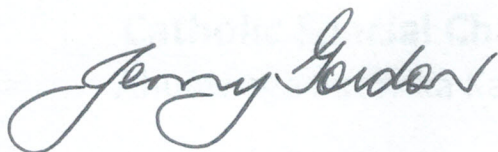


I wish the Board and school community every success with integrating the recommendations outlined in the report. The Catholic Schools Education Services (CSES) is willing and able to assist the school develop a plan and implement the recommendations. Please contact Frank Wafer, Leadership Consultant and Alan Grant the Primary Religious Education Consultant for this assistance.

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

My sincere thanks, too, for the generous work that you do for St Joseph's School and support of Catholic education.

In appreciation and with prayerful support,



Jenny Gordon  
Vicar for Education

St Joseph's School  
Kaikoura

Report completed on: 24 - 25 May 2015

Reviewed by:

Alan Grant

Frank Wafer

Maureen Phillips

Catholic Schools Education Services