

St Patrick's School Welcomes You



The Board of Trustees, Parent Teacher Association and staff welcome you and your child to St Patrick's. We know that he/she will grow, learn and be secure in a Christian environment. May you have a happy association with our school.

Quality Education in a Catholic Environment

General Description and Brief History of the School

St Patrick's is a Roman Catholic Primary School for boys and girls from New Entrants to Year 6 offering education with a Special Character.

The maximum roll of our school is 300 pupils. Subject to places being available, a limited number of non preference pupils may be enrolled.

The Special Character of St Patrick's is that it is a Roman Catholic School established by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Dunedin, which promotes and supports the school and of which, the school is part.

Our school is a place in which the whole school community through the general school Programme and its religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ.

St Patrick's is a Grade 4, 12 teacher school. It was opened on 12 March 1944 with a roll of 30. The school was originally staffed by the Nuns of the Dominican Order. The Nuns have gradually disappeared from our staff – their vocations taking them in other directions – and the school today is staffed entirely by lay teachers.

On the 18 May 1952 what is now Block B was opened and blessed by Bishop Kavanagh. There was a roll of 140 pupils. The building was placed under the patronage of St Maria Goretti. In 1958 the upper story was added. As the roll continued to grow it was decided to convert the original building, erected in 1944, into a four roomed infant block. Block A was opened in 1967.

Following the completion of this block, further extensions were made to Block B with the addition of a library and a much needed school office.

An extensive rebuilding programme costing close to \$2 million was completed on September 16 1997. In 2005 Bishop Colin Campbell asked the Minister of Education to decapitate St Patrick's from 2006 to make it a Year 1-6 school. It has previously been a full primary to Year 8. This was to allow Verdon College to become a Year 7-13 school in line with the other state secondary schools. St Patrick's is the school for the Georgetown Parish of Invercargill and is seen as a vital part of the Parish. Father Martin Flannery is our Parish Priest. The school motto is "ut filii lucis sitis" – That you may be children of the Light.

St Patrick's School accepts an obligation to develop programmes which reflect New Zealand's dual cultural heritage. Our school adopts practices that identify and cater for the individual needs of each student, particularly Maori, Pacific Island, other ethnic groups, women and girls, students with disabilities and students with other special learning needs.

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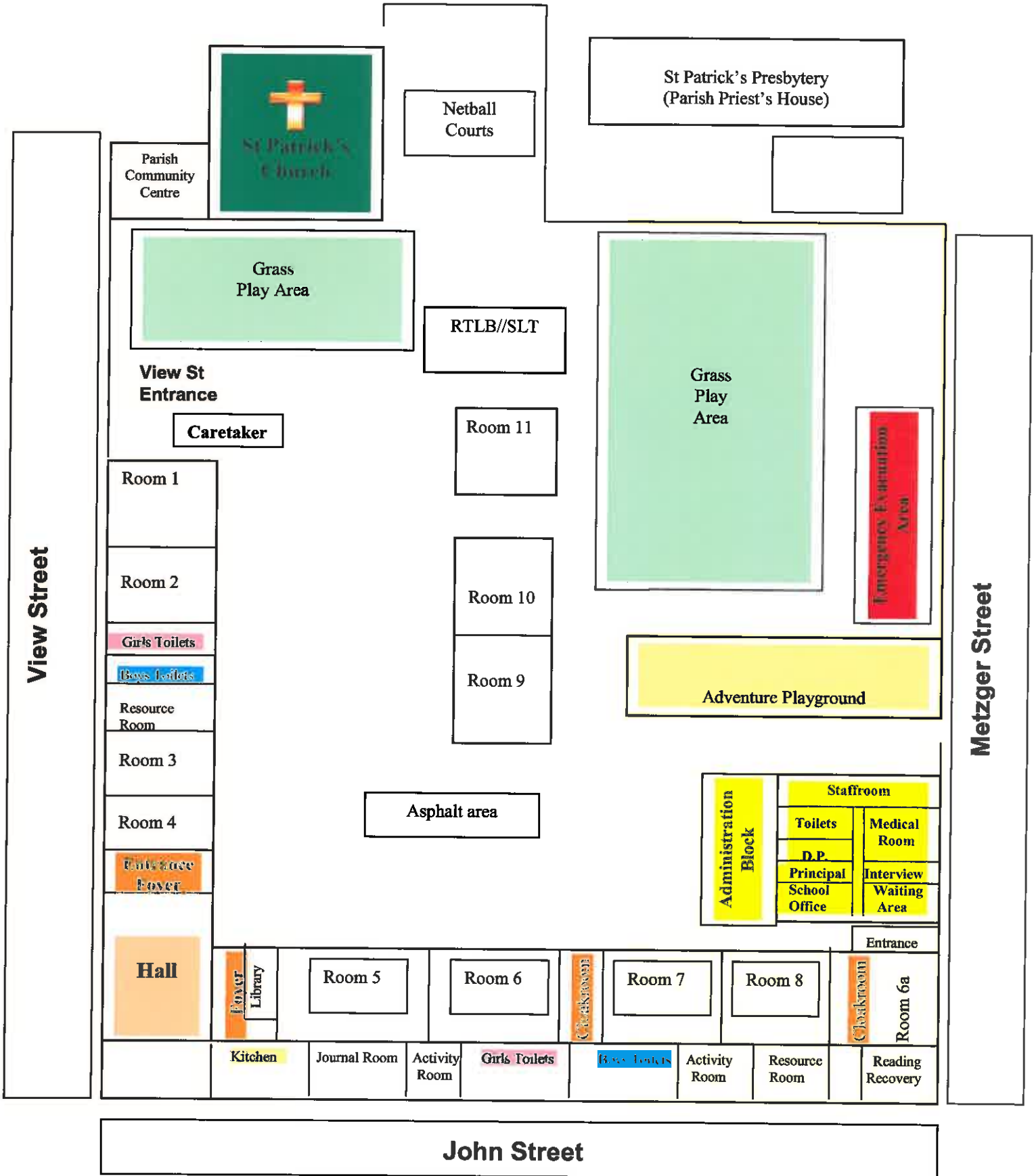
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St Patrick's Children of the Light, display the values of Self Worth, Determination and Commitment, Independence and Self Reliance, Honesty, Co-operation and Respect.

A Map of St Patrick's School



Pre-School Preparation

Enrolment Procedure

When enrolling your child at the office, the school requires proof of age and citizenship from a Birth Certificate or Passport. These must be sighted by the staff. Please advise details of medical information, allergies etc, as well as parental / caregiver or custody arrangements. This may be done prior to their 5th birthday. You may also purchase stationery items at this time.



Pre-School Visits

Children begin school after they have had one previsit with their parents. Usually between 9.00am and 11.00am on the Wednesday prior to their 5th birthday. Pre-schoolers are notified of the dates that are set for a visit to Room 6a or Room 6, which are our New Entrant Rooms.

Children will begin school on their 5th birthday or the first Monday after, if their birthday is in the weekend or in the school holidays.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

In March and July there will be an opportunity for parents to come to school and meet with the teachers. In the New Entrant Rooms there is an option to meet with the teachers after your child has been at school for 6 weeks, to discuss how your child has settled in to school.

New Entrant Rooms

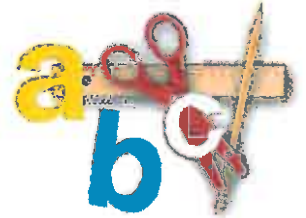
Children start school in Room 6a or 6, which are our New Entrant rooms. During their time in these rooms, we focus on teaching and learning the routines of school, socialisation and developing a solid base of knowledge from which to build on. The amount of time your child spends in our New Entrant rooms depends on a number of factors, including their readiness socially, academically and our enrolment numbers. We make our decisions about moving children through on a term-by-term basis and working through a process, considering the needs of each child carefully. When they move through to a new room it does not change their classified year level.

School Classification

At St Patrick's school, children will begin school on the day of their 5th birthday. Students who start school before 30 March are classified as Year 1. All others will be classified as Year 0.

e.g.. Diana's birthday is 16/02/2006
She can start school on the 16/02/2011
She will be a Year 1 on 16/02/2011
She will be a Year 2 starting the 2012 school year.

Cory's birthday is 16/05/2006
He can start school on the 16/05/2011 and will be a Year 0.
He will be a Year 1 starting the 2012 school year.



School Structure

At St Patrick's the classes are split up into two levelled teams.

Junior Syndicate	Year 0 - Year 1 Year 2 - Year 3
Senior Syndicate	Year 3 - Year 4 Year 5 - Year 6

Stationery

Stationery packs are available to purchase from the school office. These include all stationery items needed for your child's **first** year at school. (Alternatively you may request a stationery list where you can purchase the items from other stationery shops of your choice.)

This stationery pack includes exercise books, clear files, a my word spelling book, pencils and a 100 page clear file for samples of your child's work to be sent home. Your child's teacher will name the books for you if you wish. Pencils do not need to be named, as these are communal tools. (This saves the problem of not being able to work if your child can't find their pencil etc) Any unused items will be forwarded with your child as they move to another room.



School Uniform

All children must be in uniform to attend St Patrick's and these can be purchased through Postie Plus or H & J Smiths. Details are available on page 18 of this prospectus. We appreciate your ongoing support with ensuring that your child is wearing the correct and tidy uniform to school. In Terms 1 & 4 school sunhats are compulsory.

Personal Belongings

Please make sure that your child has a school bag large enough to hold lunch box, drink bottle, book bag and polar fleece etc. Make sure that it can be easily opened by the child. Names on the inside (avoid stranger danger) with some other form of identification or tag on the outside is best.



Uniform items need to be named inside with permanent markers or sewn name tags. If second hand items are purchased please remove previous names to save confusion. It makes life easier for everyone. School uniform is part of our school's policy and therefore it is expected that your child is dressed accordingly. All removable items need to be named, including shoes.

Children are permitted to wear watches and one pair of stud earrings. Jewellery for religious or cultural reasons is to be worn underneath their uniform. All other items of jewellery are not to be worn in case of loss, theft or personal safety. Please limit hair ties and headbands to plain brown, navy or black.

We do not encourage the children to bring toys or collectable cards to school. They can get broken or lost and cause disruption when they appear in the classroom. We hope that you support us in not allowing these things to come to school. If the children wish to bring something to share, we prefer that they bring something that they have found or made.

A "Lost Property" box can be accessed through communication with the office personnel. All lost property is kept in the school medical room.

Parents as First Teachers

Children learn by example. They need to be involved and converse with adults who are interested and prepared to share ideas and experiences with them. Everyday happenings can provide an invaluable basis for learning at home and in the wider community. We encourage you to do this with your child to prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

Transition from Home to School

The purpose of pre-school visits is for both child and parental familiarisation. They give your child the opportunity to become used to the environment, socialise with peers and learn some of our school routines. It is a good time to become familiar with where the classroom is located, the room number, teacher name, bag hooks, toilets, bells ringing, office and playground.

We realise that all children are different - some needing more parent support than others. Your child may experience a variety of emotions when starting school. These could be: excitement.... enjoyment confusion tiredness..... etc

Keep expectations realistic and encourage confidence. Your positive attitude helps your child's adjustment.

Tips for helping your child's readiness for school

Does your child know their first name and surname?

Can they write their own name?

Can they cope with independent toileting and hygiene? (such as nose blowing)

Are they responsible for their belongings?

Can they follow instructions and directions?

Can they dress / undress themselves - including footwear (velcro or slip on shoes are great!)

Do they know their numbers from 1 -10?

Do they know the difference between numbers and letters?

Can they identify and write some / all letters of the alphabet?



Curriculum Areas

Reading

Books help to enrich children's thinking. Quality time and experiences sharing books at home becomes very rewarding. We use different approaches in teaching and learning to read, shared reading as a class, guided reading in groups and individually.

Time spent reading should be enjoyable, relaxing and positive. Help your child by encouraging them to point to each word and look for the initial sounds to give them clues to the words. Children often seem to have memorised the text to begin with, so asking them a few related questions is a good way of making sure they have understood the story.



Think of us as the coaches and yourselves as the cheerleaders in helping your child to learn to read.

School reading is sent home in their book bag Monday to Thursday along with a reading diary. Each night please sign the reading diary. Listen to your child for 10 - 15 minutes per day. Select a time when your child is not hungry or tired and you can give your child your undivided attention. On Mondays, children will bring home a poem to share with you. This reading time should be enjoyable for all, not a chore. If it does become a stressful time, put the reading away and discuss with the teacher.

Alphabet / Word Knowledge

At school the children learn the alphabet and then begin to recognize the letters with confidence. From here they recognise letters out of sequence. It becomes vitally important for your child to know the letters of the alphabet for literacy progress. Before reading and writing can become an independent learning experience for children, they need to have good alphabet and sound knowledge. First of all recognising letters by name and then saying the sound the letter represents.

A copy of the alphabet with pictures and some of the first basic words for school are included on the back of your child's reading diary that is kept in their book bags. It can be very beneficial to spend a few minutes each night learning these.

Printing / Handwriting

When teaching your child to print their name, please use a capital letter for the first letter and small letters for the remainder of their name. E.g. Kylie and Jack. Encourage the correct formation of the letters, as incorrect habits are hard to correct later on. A copy of this is available from your child's teacher if you wish.



Maths

The core of our maths programme is numeracy and children will work their way through stages and levels on a continuum. The emergent stage, as seen here, is a starting point for number knowledge.

Read numbers to 5 first and then to 10	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Count forwards to 5 first and then to 10	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Count backwards from 5 first and then from 10	5, 4, 3, 2, 1
Say the number after a number (in the 1-5)	1, 2, 3, 4, _
Say the number before a number (in the 1-5)	_ , 3, 4, 5,
Order numbers to 5 first and then to 10	5, 3, 1, 2, 4,



We also explore other areas such as Measurement, Algebra, and Statistics.

Maths can be introduced and practised as part of everyday conversations with your child, "How many blue cars can you see? What shape is that Give Way sign?"

Integrated Units - Topics

At St Patrick's we have an integrated curriculum approach to topics. Themes are often school wide although context may be different in various syndicates according to the needs of the children. There are always some particular areas of curriculum focus which are assessed by classes and syndicates to inform teachers of next steps in learning for your children.

Learning Needs Programmes

The children are assessed regularly for any Literacy and Numeracy and other needs they may have. We have a number of programmes available to support your child. Each term a letter goes home advising of any help your child may be receiving.



Library

Children visit the school library weekly. They are encouraged to take one book home each week. Please return these the next week into the class Library Box. Children are not issued with another book until the previous one has been returned. The library is computerized to enable easy access to all books.

A timetable is in every room and on display in the library.

Parents are asked to ensure books are handled carefully at home and not left within reach of young children or pets. Parents are also responsible for seriously overdue or lost books.

Classroom Timetable / Daily Routine

The following is a general outline of our programme. Days and weeks vary according to the time of the year and events within the School or Syndicate.

9am	School begins with Prayer time in each class Rolls are marked,
9.15am	Newsboard / Fitness / Brainfood / Numeracy
10.30am	Morning tea /10 minutes Story time /20 mins play.
11.00am	Literacy
12.30pm	Lunch 10 minutes supervised and seated, 50 mins play.
1.30pm	Inquiry - i.e. Science, Social Studies, Health or Integrated Units P.E./The Arts (Music, Visual Art, Dance, Drama)
3.00pm	Home Time

School Routines

School Hours

School begins: 9:00 a.m.
Morning Tea: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
School ends: 3:00 p.m.



Morning Tea and Lunch Eating

All the children sit in their classrooms or outside depending on the weather. The classroom teacher stays with their class for the first 10 minutes of lunch. After this time the bell will sound and teachers will let children go. It is helpful to the children if they have food in their lunch boxes that they can open and eat easily without adult help. At morning tea times the children are encouraged to eat one or two things. Once they have finished eating their morning tea they can leave and play where they want.

Canteen

Heat-ups can be brought to school any day and are collected from the classrooms. They are heated and then distributed back to the classrooms at lunchtime.

Arriving at School

We suggest that you arrive approximately 15 minutes before the school day begins. (Children shouldn't arrive before 8.30, as teachers are busy in the classroom organising activities for the day) Let your child organise their own belongings. Depart on a positive note just prior to the bell ringing. Occasionally, children become very tearful when parents depart from the room. Experience has taught us that the longer parents stay to try and settle the child the worse it can become. A swift exit is best. Usually they do settle within minutes and have a great day. If you are anxious please feel free to phone the school to ease any concerns.

School Routines

Independence

We aim to foster independence at school and we ask that you support your child by encouraging them to be independent in emptying and putting away their own school bags and book bags. Let your child show you how to do it rather than you doing it for them.

Picking up After School

We ask that you wait away from the classroom doors and windows when you come to collect your children as classes can easily be distracted by the sight and sound of parents gathering and greeting each other! It is important for children to be focused at this time as many important items and reflections are discussed.



Children need to know their 'home time' arrangements. i.e. how they are getting home, and it is helpful for us to know as well. If these differ, then please call the office early to get a message to your child and the class teacher. Traffic becomes congested around the school at 8:30 - 9:00am and especially at 3:00pm. Safety is greatly enhanced by parents NOT parking too close to where the children cross the roads or by double parking outside school. (New Zealand law requires that all cyclists must wear a helmet.)

Communication

During your child's time at school, please don't hesitate to share any positives or concerns with us. It is important to let us know of any changes your child may be experiencing (whether that be behaviour, home or family) that may impact on them at school.

Teachers are usually available before and after school for a quick chat, but keep in mind they are usually preparing for the day and have many children to greet and support. (There are also road patrol duties and meetings to attend.) If the matter is likely to take some time, please make an appointment.

Parental involvement

School Assemblies

Every second Friday we have a School assembly from approximately 9.00 - 9.45, during which we celebrate the fortnight's events and focus on the school value. Awards are presented and students take pleasure in presenting. Each Assembly two buddy classes takes turns sharing their learning. We welcome all parents/care givers and visitors.

Newsletters

The school's weekly newsletter is sent home to parents on Wednesdays with the eldest child in the family. Other class or Syndicate notices are sent out when appropriate. It is important that you check your child's book bag each day for any newsletters or notices. You can also download our newsletter and find additional school information on our website.



School Website

The school has a very good website with lots of interesting and up to date information on it. www.stpatinv.school.nz

Active School

At St Patrick's we encourage the children to be active in their morning tea and lunch breaks. They are allowed to bring a scooter or roller blades or skateboard to school. We also have tubs of sports equipment placed in areas around the school for the children to use and enjoy.

Out of School Opportunities

At St Patrick's we are proud to be able to offer a large variety of sporting and cultural opportunities outside school hours.

Netball	Y1 – Y6
Water Polo	Y5 – Y6
Cricket	Y3 – Y6
Hockey	Y4 – Y6
Touch Rugby	Y1 – Y6

We also liaise with outside sports & cultural groups and organization such as - Out of school Art Classes; Out of school - Music Classes; Rugby and Soccer.

Outdoor Education

It is recognised that some of our pupils have had limited experiences with outdoor education, camping, working alongside others and travelling to other areas of our country. We see as a particular aim of St Patrick's School to work towards broadening their education and adding a valuable dimension to their general education at this stage of their development.

We do require parental support and appreciate the backing we receive in these ventures.

OSCAR

The YMCA run an out of school programme in our school hall each day after school till 6:00pm. If you wish to use this service you will need to contact the YMCA office.

Parents

The relationship between parents and teachers is most important in the education of your child(ren). Parents have a priority with our school. Our schools 'open door' policy allows parents to come and discuss problems etc with the staff and Principal. Once your child has enrolled at St Patrick's you have given a commitment to the school, particularly to our Religious Education programme that requires your backup and support at home. Both teachers and parents are committed to the education of the children and such a process requires co-operation and a sense of partnership.

Parent /Teacher Association (PTA)

This association helps in developing community spirit, running special projects and fundraising.

The P.T.A. plays a most important role in bringing home and school into a closer relationship. It is made up of a mix of both teachers and parents.

The P.T.A. meets once a month generally on a Tuesday.

Parents are welcome to join. Please inquire at the School Office.

Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees' role is to govern our school. Their governance is successful because of their expertise and community involvement. This co-operation has led to an effective and positive relationship between the trustees and staff and ensures that the educational well-being of students is maintained.

Below is our present Board of Trustees.

Chairperson/Parent Rep	Warwick King	
Treasurer/Bishop's Rep	Michelle Keene	
Parent Rep	Geoff Storm	
Parent Rep	Simon Kairau	
Parent Rep appointed	Anita Bottlik	
Staff Rep	Callan Goodall	
Bishop's Rep	Father Martin Flannery	(Phone 216 8466)
Bishop's Rep	Hank Oudhoff	
Parent Rep	Jason Leadley	
Bishop's Rep	Stacey Gallagher	
Principal	Alan Watts	
Secretary to the Board	Annette Dunn	

The Board of Trustees meetings are held in the Staffroom on the fourth Wednesday of each month and anyone is welcome to attend.



Staff

Staff for 2011

Mr Alan Watts, Principal

Mr Callan Goodall, Deputy Principal, Room 11, Y5 & 6

Ms Karen Wilson, Assistant Principal, Room 6, New Entrants

Miss Nicky Fitzpatrick Room 1, Senior Teacher D.R.S. Y3

Mrs Louisa McDonald, Room 2, Y2

Miss Abby Vermeulen, Room 3, Y1

Mrs Carolyn Rout, Room 4, Y2

Ms Jules Dallas, Room 5, Y1

Mrs Rachel Cook, Room 11, Y 5&6

Mr Trevor Morton ,Room 7, Y4

Ms Hannah Rikiti, Room 8, Y4

Mr Tom Wallis, Room 10, Y5 & 6

Mrs Cathie Dodd, Room 9, Y5 & 6.

Ms JulieAnn Johnson, Room 6, New Entrants

Mrs Leigh Munro, Special Needs

Teacher Aides

Mrs Deborah Wyering, Mrs Mary McKillop, Mrs Shona Campbell,

Mrs Gabrielle Oudhoff, Ms Natalie Rhodes, Ms Lynley Heydon, Mrs Tina Mennell

Secretary

Mrs Annette Dunn

Cleaning/Caretaking

Mrs Erin Streeter, Cleaner

Mr Alan Brealey ,Caretaker.

Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (Based at St Patrick's)

Loretta Reynolds

Ann Kennelly

Tanya Raats

Supplementary Learning Support Teachers (Based at St Patrick's)

Siitia Leti

Suzanne Gillies

Uniform code

GIRLS

1. Black-watch tartan tunic
2. White shirt - long/short sleeve/ Polo Shirt (Summer)
3. Jolly red V neck pullover/cardigan/school Polar Fleece
4. White ankle sox. In winter bottle-green tights or black tights.
5. Shoes - black/brown/tan, Black/Brown Sandals (Summer only)

BOYS

1. Grey shirt - long/short sleeve. Grey Polo Shirt (Summer)
2. Shorts - grey
3. Navy pullover - green and gold stripes/school polar fleece
4. Sox – Black School Sock knee highs with green/gold stripes
5. Shoes - black/brown/tan. Black/Brown Sandals (Summer only).

PE/SPORTS UNIFORM -

All students from Y4 upwards and students below this class who represent our school

must wear our PE/Sports uniform. PE Top and black shorts.

GENERAL

Shoes:

1. Sturdy leather/vinyl, one colour shoe, within the colour range provided.
2. **NO** sports shoes/boots to be worn outside P.E.
3. Gumboots can be worn outside, in wet weather
4. Slippers - optional
5. Sun Hat to be worn outside in Terms 1 & 4.

SHORTS;

1. No shorts to be visible under girls uniform

T. SHIRTS

1. White ONLY to be worn under school uniform.

HAIR:

1. Tidy groomed hair
2. Any hair accessories to be plain red/black/ bottle-green
3. All long hair to be tied

JEWELLERY:

1. One stud per ear ONLY (male/female)
2. No jangling jewellery
3. No nail varnish
4. Any chains/necklaces to be worn inside uniforms

SUN PROTECTION

We are very conscious of protecting children from the sun in the summer term. St Patrick's school sunhats are available from Postie Plus or any suitable sunhat is fine. Use sunscreen - no coloured zinc please.

Religious Education

Mission Statement

Quality education in a Catholic Environment.

Goals

- To emphasize the gospel values of love, freedom, justice and tolerance, particularly towards those who are disadvantaged.
- To ensure that the values of the Parish Community are reflected in school policy.
- To provide a good education in a Catholic environment
- To develop a knowledge of Catholic doctrine and scripture within the teaching authority of the Church.
- To promote a sense of belonging to the Church.
- To acknowledge that parents are the foremost educators of their children.
- To actively promote the values of different cultures especially of the Maori people.

All Catholic Schools in New Zealand use the Religious Education Curriculum.

The Religious Education Curriculum emphasizes the importance of the unity between home, school and parish.

Religious Education is carried out by people who believe in Jesus themselves and it is carried out by a community of believers - the Catholic Church.

When we give our children a new bike we don't expect them to put it in the shed and never use it. We may need to teach them how to use it and appreciate it and use it regularly.

So in handing on the gift of Faith we need to give example by regularly attending Mass and the Sacraments.

Classes celebrate the Eucharist throughout the year and you are encouraged to participate with them. Opportunities are also given for celebrating Reconciliation.

The Junior Classes invite people to their Shared Prayer Times at 9am on Tuesdays.

Attendance Dues

Religious Education of children is a life-time work. It is God's work, in which parents, teachers, priests and parish have a vital and necessary role to play, and although the greater responsibility rests with parents; teachers and priests can be powerful complements to home training.

Sacramental Programme

When the children move into the Year 4 classes, preparation of First Reconciliation takes place, followed by preparation for Confirmation and First Communion.

These Sacraments are celebrated as part of the Parish family and include children who do not attend our school.

The Parish runs a series of parent meetings as help for parents.

Attendance Dues

Since Integration, the State has accepted responsibility for the day to day operating costs of our school, including maintenance. We, as a Catholic Community, are responsible for the debts on land, buildings and other items referred to as "Capital Costs".

Before 1986 we, as a Catholic Community, accrued considerable debt by way of mortgages to build and upgrade our schools, and these debts must be repaid. All money from Attendance Dues goes to the Diocese.

Attendance Dues are payable per term for a four term year. Fees can be paid by automatic payment. Such bank forms are available on request from the School Office. (All Attendance Dues Accounts are sent out from and paid to the Dunedin Diocese).

If you have problems in paying school fees, because of financial difficulties, please contact either Father Martin Flannery Ph 2168466 or the Principal, Mr Watts Ph 2168505 in confidence.