

# The Place of Sports and Cultural Activities at St Patrick's College

**Mission:** We develop and educate our young men in a nurturing environment based on our Marist traditions and values. Each student is inspired to grow and excel supported by staff, parents, whanau, caregivers, and our wider community.

## **Our Core Values:**

### **Faith – Kia Ū, Kia Mau**

Live and teach the values of Jesus Christ in the way of Mary, showing our love for God and serving our neighbour.

### **Excellence – Ko te whai i te kairangatiratanga**

Be the best we can in all aspects of College and personal life.

### **Learning – Ako**

Strive for academic success and nurture a love of learning.

### **Community – Hapori**

Build positive relationships with students and their families, staff and the wider community.

### **Wellbeing – Hauora**

Foster self-discipline, resilience, integrity and self-esteem in a safe and caring environment.

### **Brotherhood – Manaakitanga**

Show respect, care and support for each other with a commitment to social justice.

**Motto: Sectare Fidem:** Hold firm to the faith.

We were founded to provide the Catholic Leaders of the future.

We are first and foremost a Catholic school and our faith should shine through in everything we do. We pride ourselves on providing a holistic education to our young men, to getting to know them individually and to help them develop the talents God has given them so they can use them in the service of others.

We expect high standards from our students in everything they do.

As a College our focus is on good teaching and learning in the classroom so our students have the opportunity to gain excellent academic results. We also teach the faith and aim to ensure all our students develop spiritually through their relationships with each other, through Mass and other Liturgies, through retreats, and through prayer and reflection. We know that we meet Jesus Christ in each other, in scripture, and in receiving Eucharist.

Sports and cultural opportunities provide opportunities for healthy competition, for physical and intellectual exercise, and help to grow well-rounded people. In some cases these opportunities can lead to employment opportunities. Sport helps us to develop a sense of team and fair play, and a sense of school spirit, but it is never to be glorified above academic achievement. Cultural activities also help with the development of teamwork skills and our school spirit, as well as extend the mind and broader understanding of the world, and create a love of the Arts. Underpinning both our sports and cultural opportunities is our commitment to the Catholic faith.

We want to provide opportunities for our students to participate and to excel in sports and cultural activities. We want to use these activities to build our community bond and our sense of belonging. These activities can also help develop resilience, character and leadership as young people learn to accept defeat graciously and

victory humbly. Through sporting and cultural exchanges with other colleges, our young men broaden their horizons and networks, developing connections beyond their St Patrick's community that may endure through their lifetimes. We will always expect a culture of fair play, of honesty and respect for officials and for opponents.

So how do we decide what is important? How do we deal with all the competing demands on our time and on the time of our students?

Five principles govern the place of sports and cultural activities at St Patrick's College, with the first two having priority over the following three:

1. Everything we do must enhance our Special Catholic Character.
2. We place a priority on academic work - on being in class and doing our best to develop our academic abilities.
3. We provide a range of sporting opportunities. For top teams in established codes, we provide a range of traditional games and exchanges that are part of the fabric of the College. Teams from established sporting codes may also participate in NZSS sanctioned events including Winter and Summer Tournaments and national competitions.
4. We provide a range of cultural opportunities. Our cultural groups are given opportunity to participate in traditional exchanges and cultural celebrations, and opportunity to compete and perform in local and national cultural competitions.
5. We provide a range of opportunities in the performing arts. Our musicians, dancers, singers, and theatrical performers are given opportunity to entertain and demonstrate their skills in a variety of settings.

As far as practicable, sporting and cultural groups are encouraged to structure the commitments expected of participants so as not to prevent students from participating in other activities, or conflict with spiritual or academic commitments.

The College Rector is tasked with managing the School Calendar and fixtures the College promotes participation in so as to maximise the opportunities for our students to participate in the fabric of the College in as many ways as they can. This objective is subject to the first two of our guiding principles: extracurricular activities ought not to intrude on school life to the extent that the academic progress of any student is compromised, and our spiritual commitments must be protected and encouraged at all times.

As part of this function, the College Rector manages a calendar of known extracurricular events and key academic dates to help identify and manage pressure points in the calendar. That calendar locks in some key events that are part of the College tradition, around which other activities need to be accommodated. Sporting and cultural groups are encouraged to put forward their respective major events at the start of each year so that all can be treated fairly in light of the constraints.