

Jireh Christian School Special Character External Review Report Executive Summary

May 2023



Reviewers:

Eoin Crosbie
Philip Mark Bradley
Rachel Tetley-Jones

Consultant:

Dr Jacqui Lloyd

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| School Type: | Year 1 - 8 |
| Roll Numbers: | 285 |
| Principal: | Sandra Bosman |
| Board Presiding Member: | Andrew Coombridge |
| Land Trust Chair: KWT | Allan Bates |
| Proprietor Chair: | Mark Larson |

Introduction

Every three years, NZCPT conducts a formal external review of Special Character within the schools for which they are the proprietor. The previous review was undertaken in August 2019. NZCPT appointed Eoin Crosbie (NZCPT Trustee) to lead this review. Philip Mark Bradley, as the new CEO of KWT and NZCPT, is automatically part of the review team. Rachel Tetley-Jones, Deputy Principal of KingsGate School was seconded to the review team. Rachel is heavily involved in the implementation of Special Character at another local KingsWay Trust school. Dr Jacqui Lloyd acted as a consultant to the review, given her intimate knowledge of Jireh Christian School's current engagement with professional development and implementation of the NZCPT's Special Character documents.

During the first day of the review, the review team met with staff, parents, students, Board and Land Trust/Proprietor representatives. Sandra provided links to a suite of documents pertaining to Special Character, which were read prior to our visit. The AIS attestation survey and a staff survey were completed. We visited classes to engage with Daily Discipleship/learning and to get a sense of the culture of the school.

We specifically express our sincere thankfulness to Sandra Bosman, the staff and the Jireh school community for their engagement, hospitality, fellowship, and support.

The Current Context

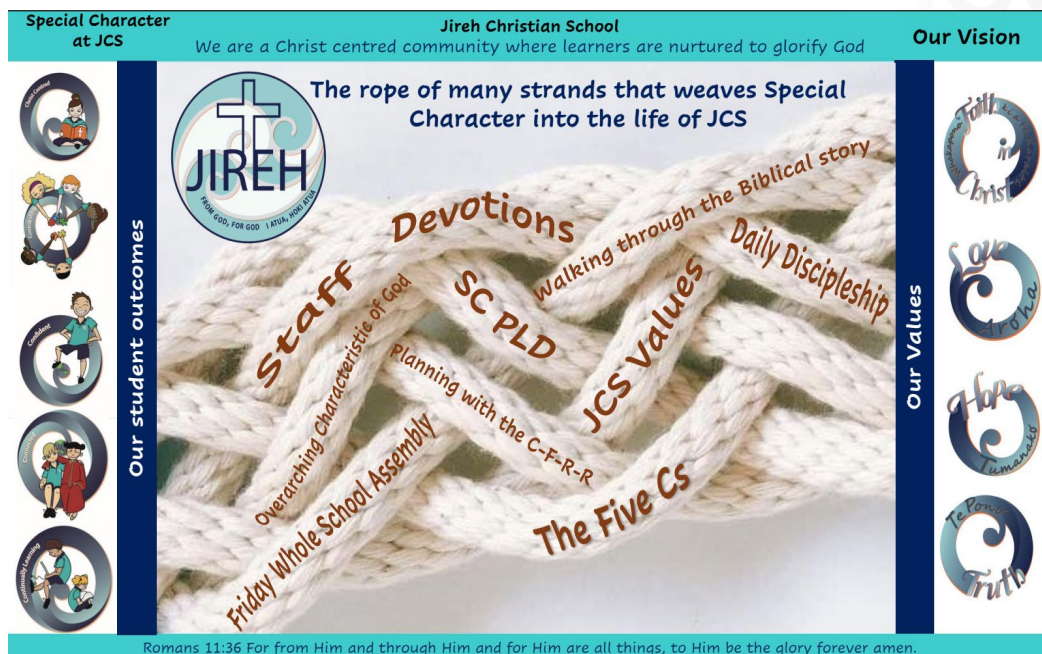
- Jireh Christian School commenced as a stand-alone State Integrated School from the beginning of 2018. Sandra Bosman was appointed as the establishment Principal and Vicki Morris the Deputy Principal. Before this, Jireh was a satellite of KingsWay and Immanuel Christian School which closed at the end of 2017. This merger has been carefully and prayerfully managed to honour the history of both school communities. It is now well past the establishment phase.
- Most staff teaching at the school have been there since its inception, but others are new. The leaders heading up the four Learning teams have taken on more responsibility as the school has grown.
- The Board and Proprietor have established a Makerspace centre, which focuses on technology and creative design.
- Since the Establishment Board, new members have gradually replaced others, especially in the last round of elections. There is now almost a completely new Board with a new Presiding Member who is also new to a school board, but he is a very capable learner.
- Jireh is the school of choice for many parents across a wide area of Auckland, including Papakura, Papatoetoe, Mangere Bridge, Woodhill, Massey, Henderson, Swanson, Rainui, Blockhouse Bay, Greenhithe, Titirangi, Avondale, New Lynn and Mt Albert. The Y1-8 students are a culturally diverse group with approximately 20% Chinese, 15% Pasifika, 13% Africans, 13% NZ European, 10% Indian, 7% Filipino, 5% Māori, 4% Korean, and 6% from other Asian families. The remaining 7% are other nationalities.
- The roll continues to grow. The present cap is set at 300. The current roll is 286. Jireh is permitted to enrol 5% non-preference students.
- Jireh is limited in its available space to grow its footprint. The KWT owns some of the land that the school buildings occupy and leases other significant portions of land from the adjacent Church. It owns

all the buildings on both portions of land. This arrangement is complex and the source of significant delays in terms of the development of more permanent buildings on this site.

- The school currently teaches up to Year 8. Graduates generally leave Jireh to attend Elim Christian College (Mt Albert Campus) or Kingsway (Albany).
- The school is a member of Ki Atua hei te Kororia Kāhui Ako.

Developments since last review

1. There are now four learning teams, each with their own leader of learning.
 - Manu (Birds) (Y1/NE) JO
 - Wai (Water) (Y2/3) NICOLA
 - Ika (Fish) (Y4-6) MALIAH and
 - Tiwai (Trees) (Y7/8) GRETA.
2. As the newly combined school established its culture, four values emerged; namely faith, hope, love, and truth.
3. Strategic planning is now a strength of the school. A Special Character goal should be included in the overall Strategic Plan of the school, referenced to the Special Character implementation plan.
4. The various strands that make up the 'Rope' of Christian Education have been developed and documented.



5. There are many opportunities now for service and leadership development for students, particularly in Years 6, 7, and 8.
6. There is quality PD provided in Biblical and theological understanding.

The review team confirm that the recommendations from the 2019 report have been largely fulfilled.

Executive Summary

Jireh Christian School is in a growth phase after having very successfully completing the establishment of one school from two. 'One' is important as it exemplifies the unity, purpose, and strength of the school. Staff, students, the Board and Parents are all united in their quest and desire for quality Christian Education.

At the heart of Jireh's Special Character is the Daily Discipleship Programme (DDP). An 'umbrella' planning document sets up a whole term's focus around some characteristic of God. (e.g. God is our Provider). Staff use these plans to disciple their classes using scripture memory verses and passages, linking learning to the school values, the graduate attributes, and the New Zealand Curriculum. This focussed approach for each term continues for 12 terms (3 years) and then recycles. Reviews are incorporated so that the next cycle is not identical to the first. Gradually, students develop a deep understanding of theology, of the Bible and of God. The review team were delighted to witness this depth in our discussions with students. Moreover, pupils are able to pray authentically rather than in a shallow or cliched manner. Prayer is part of their day.

The wider challenge of infusing a Biblical understanding into the whole curriculum is a key component of professional development at the school. The intention is to do so in authentic ways and teachers are deliberate in implementing this in their practice. A significant aspect of recent learning has been the local history of the Avondale area.

Students are encouraged to look after each other and serve one another. Various responsibilities are assigned to senior students. The school has worked with 'I love Avondale' to engage in authentic service opportunities in the community. The review team experienced a caring, loving environment during their visit to the school. Student were friendly, respectful, and curious.

The school is very good at planning, strategic or otherwise. The Board have articulated a clear vision and purpose for JCS. Parents, students, and staff are on board with this vision. Staff are regarded as the school's greatest strength. The leadership team are highly respected and loved. The school is well connected to its parent community. Parents are involved and very helpful in building a strong community around the school. The Kingsway Trust is working hard to improve the quality of buildings and expand the footprint of the school. The complexity of this goal requires patience while the challenges are worked through and resolved.

Jireh Christian School has a very strong and living Special Character that is being constantly nurtured and promoted to all. The school is in good heart and is looking forward to further growth and development. There are many exciting opportunities ahead. These must be immersed in prayer and actioned with patience and a complete trust in God's provision.