

What is the Special Character of St Gerard's?





***Be it known to all who
enter here that
JESUS is the reason for
this school.***

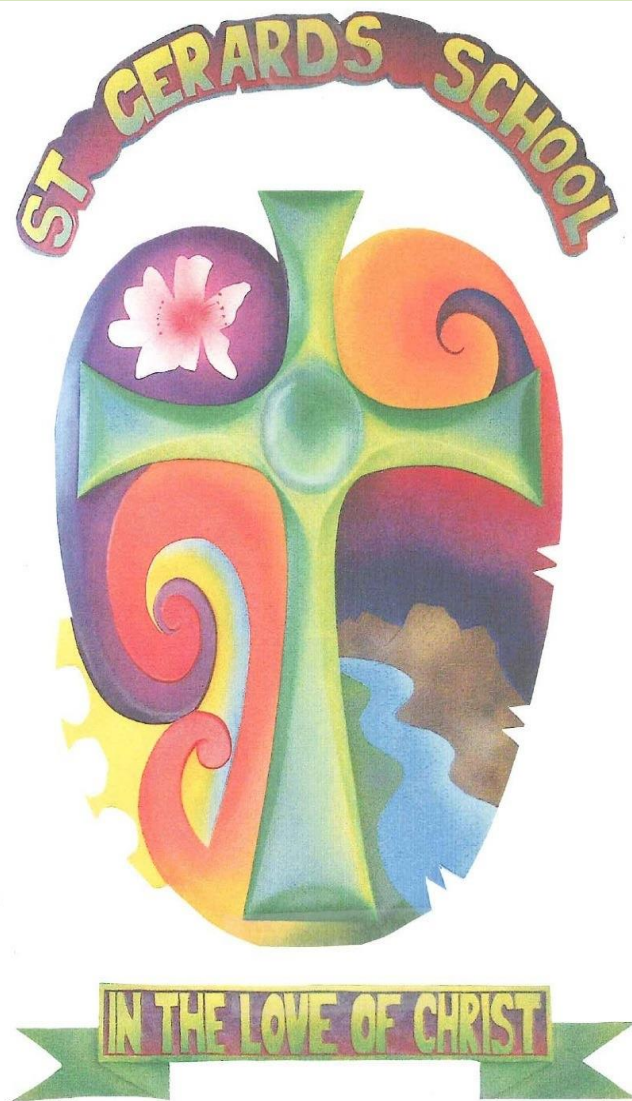
***He is the unseen yet
ever present teacher in
its classes. He is the
model of its community
and the inspiration of its
children and teachers.***



"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

"Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; also the fish, and as much as they wanted." John 6: 1-14

In the time of Jesus , children were not important. They were not listened to or included but Jesus listened and valued their



This is our school crest. The cross represents Christ and Christ's **Aroha** is symbolized in the outline shape of a heart.

The whole design reflects Bicultural Balance and Harmony from which we derive **Mana** (sacredness & dignity) **Pono** (faith) and **Tika** (justice). The four areas depict the 4 values we wish to enhance at our school.

Compassion- taken from the Beatitudes. This prayer was given to us by Christ and it reveals the goal of human existence- **Commitment** – as seen by the Mercy sisters in their efforts to maintain a school here in Alexandra The Mercy sisters started this school 100 years ago, **Curiosity** – which is about creation and the enormous impact it has on us here in Alexandra as well as us understanding the gift of creation that we have been given, **Joyfulness**- the celebrations that we experience as part of the family of Christ and within the community of Alexandra.



ST GERARDS SCHOOL

LOVE-aroha ai... LEARN-ako ai... GROW-tipu ai

This is our vision statement that drives and inspires all aspects of our school life. This statement came about through consultation, over 18 months, with our school community. The Maori states ongoing love, ongoing learning and ongoing growth.

We develop **Love** of God, people, tradition and environment

We **Learn** through experiences, curiosity, knowledge, achievement and team

We **Grow** our voice, our minds our relationships and our potential

PRAYER

Our children pray daily. They begin their day praying with their class. Immediately on entering school they begin to think of others in their prayers. Even 5 year olds are encouraged and supported to pray for other people. Prayer takes many forms- quiet meditative prayer where students have music and scripture to focus on and they have the chance to speak and listen to God in their own hearts. Prayer shared aloud- where an intention is shared based around a focus e.g those people who love us, those who are alone, those important people who make decisions for us, etc Prayer can be a chance to share the positive qualities your neighbour has and that you cherish, it is a song that speaks of God and his wonders.



Liturgy & Masses & Sacraments

Our students lead prayer and liturgy in classes, our school, our parish. They learn how to read scripture reverently so that others can hear God's word. The whole school takes part in Scripture reading through our Eisteddfod Oral Language programme. Liturgy and mass are a time of reflection, experiencing the presence of God and developing that relationship with Jesus.

The opportunity to receive the sacraments of the Catholic church are given to all from year 4 onwards. This opportunity comes through the parish and children are supported and celebrated with by the whole school.



Religious Education Curriculum

Aims of the programme:

- To assist children to develop a relationship with God
- To be a living witness to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

From year 1-8 , each year there are 6 strands covered. The strands are God, Jesus Christ, Sacrament, The Holy Spirit, Communion of Saints and Church. These strands are significant because they help develop over 8 years, a knowledge and an understanding of different aspects of God and help with the formation of Christian persons. They are presented through a digital resource, photos, drama, prayer, dance, scripture and written forms.

How is the special character
integrated throughout the
curriculum?

DRAMA

LEADERSHIP

Restorative Practice

ENVIRO SCHOOL

BUDDIES

ART

SPORTS