

Sustainable Citizenship Policy

St Gerard's School is committed to nurturing a school community with a strong sense of caring for the earth, all of God's creation, drawing on the concept of Kaitiakitanga.

Love of the Environment is a strategic goal for our school.

Our students learn about environmental issues as part of the curriculum. St Gerard's School has a multi-disciplinary approach to education for sustainability, which encourages:

- Understanding of the environment
- Awareness of environmental issues
- Concern for the environment, and
- Personal responsibility for the environment.

St Gerard's School is part of the Enviroschools Programme.

The Board acknowledges its role in nurturing a school environment and community ethos of valuing and caring for our environment. To this end, the Board:

- Proactively considers opportunities to improve the environmental sustainability of our practices across the school.
- Considers community-wide and life-cycle impacts of our decisions, including when selecting goods and services.
- Looks for opportunities to share resources within our local community to optimise opportunities for our students, staff and families.
- Will ensure teaching staff have the knowledge and skills to implement classroom practices that support this policy.
- Supports ongoing staff professional development to develop better understanding of the links between stewardship of the earth and our special character (as outlined in Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si "on care for our common home").

The Board has identified three key theme areas for focus within our School:

- Living Landscapes, which includes:
 - Biodiversity,
 - Water, and
 - Wonder of our natural world.
- Climate and a Zero Carbon approach, which includes:
 - Energy and transport choices and offsets,
 - Food Growing (making use of the school vegetable garden) and
 - Tree planting, such as in our native garden and local projects.
- Zero Waste and Energy, which includes:
 - Classroom waste
 - Student waste, particularly lunches, and
 - A reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink approach to resource use.

The St Gerard's School Sustainability Panel guides the implementation of these theme areas across the school. It comprises one Board member, the Enviro Lead Teacher, a PTA member and two student Enviro Leaders.

The Panel meets at least twice each year to set the direction for the year, review progress and recommend next steps. The Panel reports annually to the Board on its progress and recommendations.

While the Board has ultimate responsibility for this policy, the Lead Enviro Teacher takes an active lead in the day to day implementation of this policy within the school, and specifically leads its implementation within the school curriculum.

Sustainable citizenship encompasses all the Key Competencies but specifically: thinking, relating to others, and participating and contributing. We do all of this locally and globally, looking for opportunities to work with local iwi, whanau and community groups.

Supporting Policies and Procedures:

- Living Landscapes
- Climate and Zero Carbon
- Zero Waste