



# **Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Whangarei**

Dear Parents/Caregivers, The following information is given to assist parents/caregivers seeking to gain preference of enrolment at a Catholic school.

- In seeking preference of enrolment at a Catholic School you need to make a commitment to actively support your child in his/her faith formation and the practices of the Catholic Church.
- A new Preference Certificate is required for each child in the family.
- Preference Certificates are school specific in that the name of the school the family intends to make an application must be specified on the Certificate.
- A new Preference Certificate is required for transfer to another school e.g. primary to secondary school. In some exceptional circumstances the preference status of your children could change.
- The school keeps the Preference Certificate – not the family.
- It is the responsibility of the significant adult to provide some evidence to show they are an active member of the Catholic Church, if not personally known to the person granting preference of enrolment.
- Priests/Bishop's Agents grant preference and they are the only person who may do so. Schools then decide which students they will accept for enrolment.
- Attendance at a Catholic school by non-preference students are not grounds for seeking preference of enrolment at another Catholic school.

## **Criteria for Preference of Enrolment in Integrated Catholic Schools**

- 5.1 The child has been baptised or is being prepared for baptism in the Catholic Church.
  - 5.2 The child's parents/guardians have already allowed one or more of its siblings to be baptised in the Catholic faith.
  - 5.3 At least one parent/guardian is a Catholic, and although their child has not yet been baptised, the child's participation in the life of the school could lead to the parents having the child baptised.
  - 5.4 With the agreement of the child's parent/guardian, a grandparent or other significant adult in the child's life, such as an aunt, uncle or godparent, undertakes to support the child's formation in the faith and practices of the Catholic Church.
  - 5.5 One or both of a child's non-Catholic parents/guardians is preparing to become a Catholic.
  - 5.6 Special Whangarei Interim Criteria (Expires December 2016)
    - 5.6.1 The child has a sibling who was granted preference prior to 2011 provided that this sibling is currently enrolled at one of the Catholic schools in Whangarei.
    - 5.6.2 The child is a member of a family recently immigrated (within the last year) in which one of the parents had a significant period of Catholic education in the country of origin.
- If you are applying for preference of enrolment under criteria 5.3 which reads *At least one parent/guardian is a Catholic, and although their child has not yet been baptised, the child's participation in the life of the school could lead to the parents having the child baptised*, it is important to recognise that one parent/guardian being Catholic is not sufficient in itself to guarantee that preference will be granted. The second part of the sentence has equal weight with the first.
  - If you are applying for preference of enrolment under criteria 5.4: The significant adult in the child's life, who is undertaking to support your child's formation in the faith and practices of the Catholic Church, needs to accompany you to the meeting with the Priest when seeking preference of enrolment. At the interview you will be asked to establish under which of these criteria you are entitled to Preference of Enrolment for your child. If you think you may qualify on some other score for a preference card you are welcome to come for an interview. However, I am required by the terms of the Integration Act to establish that the 'connection' claimed does in fact entitle one to Preference of Enrolment.

Yours sincerely

Fr Chris Martin sm (Parish Priest)