



School Board Meeting Starters

Becoming familiar with the new Religious Education Curriculum

- The Touchstones -

Purpose: An opportunity to reflect on our Catholic Character at the start of each Board meeting by reading and discussing a snippet from [Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith](#) (TTWOF), the new Religious Education Curriculum. (~10 minutes)

N.B. The new Religious Education Curriculum for Catholic primary and secondary schools in Aotearoa has been approved by the NZ Bishops, and NCRS is working hard to develop resources to support its implementation in your school.

In *Tōtātou Whakapono Our Faith* the **Touchstones** are woven through Themes, Cross-Themes and Achievement Objectives as a journey of discipleship – reflecting on what it means to encounter and be connected to Jesus. They are designed to place a focus on each level of the Curriculum, with Years 1 & 2 focusing on being Welcomed, right through to Year 13s focussing on being Sent. However, there is value in boards reflecting on where all these ever-present touchstones exist in the life of our schools.

Text and Discussion Questions (Based on content on pages 40 & 72 of TTWOF):

Meeting	Text (<i>Quotes from the new RE Curriculum - Tō Tātou Whakapono</i>)	Discussion Question?
1	 <p>Whakatau Welcomed Jesus was welcomed at Bethlehem by whānau, shepherds, angels, and wise men. He and his family also experienced the pain of not being welcomed.</p> <p>Jesus welcomes all and shows us how to treat ourselves, others, and the earth fairly.</p>	<p>As a board, how do we feel welcomed and how do we welcome others? How does the sense of welcome impact our discussion and decisions?</p>
2	 <p>Aroha mai, Aroha atu Loved Jesus was loved by his Father in heaven and his whānau on earth. Jesus was a gift of love to us and when he grew up he taught us how to love the giver, ourselves and one another.</p> <p>God's love is holy and God calls all people to share this love with others to grow in holiness.</p>	<p>As a board, how is God's aroha reflected in our consideration of Catholic special character at this school? How is our discussion 'holy'?</p>
3	 <p>Oho Ake Inspired Jesus inspired those who followed him. From the beginning of his earthly ministry his words and actions showed people that there was a better way to live, love and believe.</p> <p>God's justice inspires others and us all to protect and transform the world.</p>	<p>As a board, what have been moments of inspiration and/or transformation in our discussion and decisions? Where do we find inspiration?</p>



Meeting	Text (Quotes from the new RE Curriculum - Tō Tātou Whakapono)	Discussion Question?
4	 <p>He Iriiringa Called Those who listened and recognised Jesus were called to be his disciples. And, they responded by following him.</p> <p>In our life journey, we are called to belong to, and participate in, God’s Church.</p>	<p>As a board, how do we listen to, recognise, and respond to the call to participate in the school’s Catholic special character?</p>
5	 <p>Tūhono Connected Jesus connected these disciples to one another and to the world. He showed that following him involved building community in order to build the reign of God. He was rarely alone, and prayed often to God.</p> <p>We, and those who came before us, are connected to one-another as Church, with a rich history and Tradition.</p>	<p>As a board, how are we connected to the wider school community, and parish community? How might these connections be improved?</p>
6	 <p>Whakawhirinaki Trusted Jesus trusted his disciples to live his way and teach others what he had taught them. They often misunderstood or took a wrong path, and he would teach them again and trust them again.</p> <p>God trusts us to live lives of justice, and we build trust with others through our integrity in personal and social relationships</p>	<p>As a board we are trusted with the task of governance, how do we create a culture of trust within our board? How might trust within our community be improved?</p>
7	 <p>He Wero Challenged Jesus didn’t always have it easy. He was continuously asked difficult questions and placed in difficult situations. His death on the Cross was the ultimate challenge to him and to his disciples.</p> <p>God’s grace is present in tough times and difficult decisions</p>	<p>As a board how do we respond to challenge? What might we draw on in times of challenge?</p>
8	 <p>Tono Sent After the resurrection, just before his ascension to heaven, the disciples were sent to the whole world to teach what they had been taught and to live how Jesus had showed them to live.</p> <p>We share God’s wisdom with everyone we encounter.</p>	<p>As a board, how do our discussions and decisions impact on life beyond our school?</p>

