

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

External Review of
Catholic Special Character and Development

St Francis Xavier School
Mornington
Dunedin

Summary Page:

St Francis Xavier school is situated in the Mornington Parish of Dunedin. It is in a popular area for families in the city. It has a compact site closely associated with the Parish Church and facilities. It is fortunate to have easy access to the Parish facilities to support its work in Special Character.

The School is also fortunate to have a strong staff and supportive community seeking to support and build the Special Character of the School. It is well led by the Board and Principal who are seeking to build a renewed partnership now that a more settled appointment to Parish Priest has been made.

The school has good leadership from an experienced and committed Principal. Its DRS plays a key role in leading a strong department where lessons are well planned and carefully delivered. Other staff are equally strong in their commitment to Special Character.

Classroom prayer and lessons are regular and appropriate. Teachers vary the experience to meet the needs of the students. They also play a key role in the delivery of the Sacramental Programme through the school.

The school has been resourceful in organising digital equipment for the new Religious Education programme. Classrooms have been well set up through the enterprise of the Principal and a strong and supportive PTA.

One of the strengths of this school community is the emerging pastoral awareness that the PTA has for parents and families in need. It lives its Gospel Values through its care and concern for all members of the school community.

Students in the senior school are able to relate to the founding charism while keeping Christ at the centre of their spirituality. They understand the school value of respect and the story of the patron of the school.

The school makes every part of its environment a useful space and uses opportunities both inside the school buildings and the playground to display symbols and branding for its Gospel Mission. Classrooms are well decorated with a range of materials that show the steps the children are making in Special Character.