



Director of Religious Studies Application Pack





Director of Religious Studies (DRS) Application Package

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Advertisement – Director of Religious Studies

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School (I)

Director of Religious Studies (Special Character Position)

Full time, Permanent 2PMU

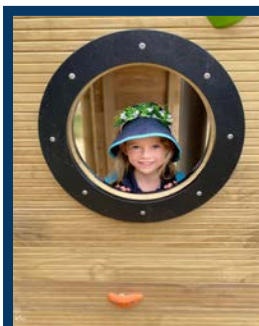
Start date - Term 1 2024

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School is a new integrated Y1–6 Catholic primary school which opened in Pāpāmoa in February 2021. Our foundation school currently has a roll of 183 learners and serves a large, diverse and emerging coastal community. Our vision is **to engage, inspire and empower through Christ**.

We seek a Director of Religious Studies (DRS) who is committed to leading special Catholic Character and learning that will engage, inspire and empower global citizens for the future. Our DRS will be innovative, collaborative and purposeful in creating learning opportunities that bring faith alive and integrate with other curriculum areas. With learning at the centre, our DRS will support the leadership of a future-focused Catholic education that empowers children to be courageous, creative, collaborative and faithful to our Catholic Special Character.

Our passionate leader will have a key role in designing a responsive localised curriculum that reflects our Charism and includes current changes in the NZ Curriculum and NZRE Curriculum. Our DRS will coach and mentor teachers in spiritual formation and professional growth in Religious Education. The successful candidate will also promote pastoral care for our learners and demonstrate an understanding of relational and restorative practice. Experience in and an understanding of innovative or flexible learning environments will be an advantage.

We aim to promote a sense of compassion and manaakitanga through service in our community in the spirit of our patron Suzanne Aubert. We are looking for a team player who is compassionate, highly motivated, collaborative, innovative and who can further grow and enhance the learning-focused culture at Suzanne Aubert. A willingness and ability to participate in religious instruction appropriate to the special character of the school is a condition of appointment. This leadership position will include a teaching component. A job share arrangement could be considered for this position. Please indicate this in your application.





Letter to Applicant

Kia ora Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in joining the team at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for a passionate and enthusiastic leader of Catholic education to contribute to and enhance the foundation journey of our school. It is important to us that the leaders and teachers we appoint share our philosophy around learning and can genuinely commit to the vision for the school which is to **engage, inspire and empower through Christ**.

We seek a Director of Religious Studies (DRS) who is committed to leading special Catholic Character and learning that will engage, inspire and empower global citizens for the future. Our DRS will be innovative, collaborative and purposeful in creating learning opportunities that bring faith alive, are inquiry-based and which integrate with other curriculum areas. With learning at the centre, our DRS will support the leadership of a future-focused Catholic education that empowers children to be courageous, creative, collaborative and faithful to our Catholic Special Character.

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The Director of Religious Studies (DRS) position will also include a teaching responsibility. The Year level for this role will be determined during Term 4 as we develop our teams for 2024. This is decided on a strengths based approach. There will be a degree of flexibility regarding your preferred year level. A job share arrangement could be considered for this position. Please indicate this in your application.

Physical or remote visits with the Suzanne Aubert team are strongly recommended. We warmly welcome you to please get in contact if you would like to meet the Principal and have a tour of our kura. There will be an opportunity for shortlisted applicants to share their vision for learning and demonstrate their strengths of practice during the recruitment process.

Please ensure you include all the following in your completed application:

Email to Office Administrator	Responses collected in Google Forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covering letter Curriculum Vitae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Form CI47 Form (Required for Special Character positions) Referee Report

For any further enquiries, please contact Maria Mooney our Office Administrator: office@suzanneaubert.school.nz.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Ngā mihi nui



Anthony Mills

Foundation Principal - Tumuaki



The Journey of Our Foundation School

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School is a new integrated Year 1-6 Catholic primary school which opened in Pāpāmoa in February 2021. Our beautiful coastal school currently has a roll of 183 learners and will continue to grow to a capped roll of 200 by the end of 2023 with provision for future growth to 250 by the end of 2024. Our foundation school serves a large, diverse and emerging community and is part of the All Saints by the Sea Catholic Parish. The catchment area for our school includes Papamoa South, Papamoa East (from Domain Road), through Te Puke and as far as Pukehina Beach.

Our school patron Suzanne Aubert (Meri Hōhepa) is the founder of the religious order, the Sisters of Compassion, which is the only home-grown order in Aotearoa New Zealand. They continue her vision and mission to serve those in need with faith, love and compassion. Mother Aubert is on the journey to becoming canonised as a Saint in the Catholic Church.

The vision of Suzanne Aubert Catholic School is:

To Engage, Inspire and Empower Through Christ.

The Board and Staff have developed this vision in consultation with our local iwi, Parish and the Sisters of Compassion.

Through consultation with our whānau and community, we have developed the following Principles for Living and Learning (the Seven C's):

- ☐ Christ-like
- ☐ Compassionate
- ☐ Collaborative
- ☐ Creative
- ☐ Curious
- ☐ Courageous
- ☐ Connected



These are dispositions that we promote and aspire to in our learning and relationships.

Our school consists of three learning teams Hikurangi (Year 0-2), Mangatawa (Year 3-4) and Kopukairoa (Year 5-6) which are named after our local maunga and the cultural narrative of Ngā Potiki iwi (Legend of the Three Whales). Our learning teams are spread across two collaborative environments Kawakawa (Year 0-2) and Harakeke (Year 3-6) which are named after native plants that Suzanne Aubert used in her herbal rongoa.

As our school grows, we are excited about the prospect of welcoming new members to our foundation team to further enhance our Suzanne Aubert learning culture and community in 2024.

Person Specification

The Board, staff, learners and community value the following aspirational dispositions for leaders and teachers at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School:

A Director of Religious Education at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School will:

- Demonstrate a willingness to lead and promote the Catholic Character of the School
- Promote the school vision to engage, inspire and empower learners through Christ
- Exemplify the spirit of Suzanne Aubert through faith in action and a commitment to the faith community
- Establish culturally responsive relationships and inclusive practice through a commitment to the Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Develop trusting learning-focused relationships with students, staff, whānau and the wider community through a sense of manaakitanga and whānaungatanga
- Keep learning at the centre of their leadership practice and commit to equity for all learners
- Demonstrate creativity, innovation and a passion for designing learning
- Promote learner agency, curiosity and inquiry based pedagogy for both students and adults
- Have proven experience and a deep understanding of flexible learning environments
- Foster a learning culture that is joyful, positive, appreciative and celebrates success
- Be courageous, daring and excited by the unique opportunity to create new ways of learning
- Demonstrate knowledge of the New Zealand Curriculum, New Zealand Religious Education Curriculum, localised curriculum and trends in future focused education
- Adopt a collaborative approach to leading a team and empower others in their learning
- Exhibit strengths and expertise in any of the following areas: Te reo me ōna tikanga, STEM, environmental science/science citizenship, visual and performing arts and learning through play
- Display empathy, integrity and a sense of compassion towards others
- Nurture a sense of kaitiakitanga and care of our natural physical environment
- Demonstrate high expectations and continually strive for excellence in leading and learning
- Be an effective communicator and display strong interpersonal skills
- Foster a sense of hauora and prioritise the wellbeing of our learners and staff
- Display a growth mindset in learning and relationships with others
- Be a reflective practitioner and exhibit an ongoing commitment to professional learning
- Have a strong sense of humour and know how to have fun



Position Description

Position: Director of Religious Education (Special Character Position). Full time - Permanent.

Responsible to: Principal and Board

A DRS at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School is required to:

- Lead and promote the special Catholic Character of the school and participate in religious instruction appropriate to this special character
- Develop and implement schoolwide learning programmes and events that reflect the special Catholic character, Charism, vision, principles and pedagogical philosophies of the school
- Co-design a localised curriculum that reflects our unique special character, cultural partnership with local iwi and which integrates the learning outcomes of the New Zealand Religious Education Curriculum and New Zealand Curriculum
- Demonstrate a commitment to Te Reo, Tikanga and Te Ao Maori as reflected in the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Develop learning focused partnerships with All Saints by the Sea Parish, Hamilton Diocese and the Catholic school network
- Facilitate and engage in ongoing spiritual formation, professional learning, theological development and commitment to liturgical ministry for staff
- Support the Principal to coach and mentor staff towards developing quality practice and professional growth in Religious Education teaching and learning
- Analyse and report on schoolwide progress and achievement in Religious Education with a view to using evidence to improve outcomes for all learners
- Communicate regularly with staff, whānau and the wider community through school newsletters, hui and social media about Catholic special character
- Facilitate a relational and restorative approach to managing student behaviour
- Maintain processes and systems to promote pastoral care and wellbeing of learners, staff and whānau through induction, transition and ongoing relationship building
- Engage learners through authentic Religious Education experiences that are innovative, integrated, inquiry-based and encourage horizontal connectedness across the curriculum
- Collaborate with others in a flexible learning environment in a manner that is professional, respectful and solution-focused
- Record, monitor and analyse assessment data with a view to using evidence to improve outcomes for all learners with focus on accelerating progress for priority learners
- Reflect on leadership, professional growth and teaching practice through personalised inquiry and meet the expectations of the Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards for the Teaching Profession
- Demonstrate a professional manner and develop positive and trusting relationships as part of the Senior Leadership Team
- Display an understanding of school policies and work within school procedures

Timeline

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:

Friday 8th September 2023.

All applications must be received by 3pm.

SHORTLISTING:

Monday 11th - Tuesday 12th September 2023.

Successful shortlisted applicants will be contacted via phone.

INTERVIEWS & SMALL GROUP TEACHING OBSERVATION:

Monday 16th - Friday 20th October 2023.

The venue will be Suzanne Aubert Catholic School.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME:

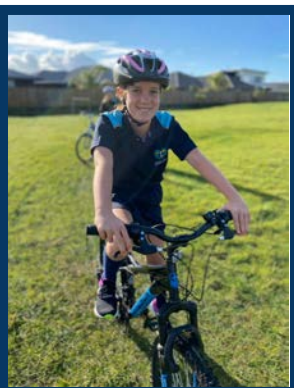
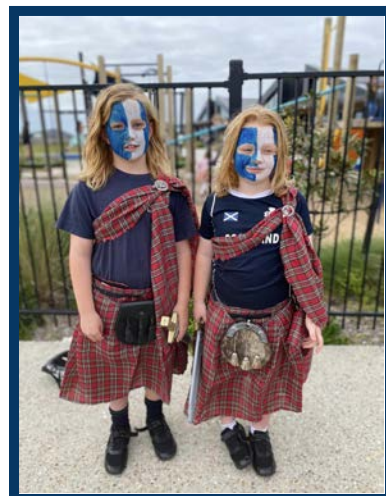
Monday 23rd October 2023.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be contacted via phone.

POSITION COMMENCEMENT:

Term 1 - 2024.

The successful applicants will be required to attend induction days in Term 4 2023 prior to starting (Dates TBC).



Self Evaluation Form

The Application form includes a self-evaluation to gather information about recent teaching experiences, leadership opportunities, curriculum strengths and professional learning.

- 1. LEADING CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER:** Describe a significant experience in leading Catholic special character in a school setting.
- 2. INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP:** Describe a recent learning innovation or project you have led or initiated in your practice.
- 3. LEARNING & CURRICULUM STRENGTHS:** Identify your specific curriculum strengths and/or specialist learning areas e.g. Visual and Performing Arts, Te reo me ōna tikanga, STEM, Science Citizenship and Learning Through Play.
- 4. TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:** Describe an example of learning or leading from your practice that reflects the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 5. FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS:** Describe your understanding of and experience working in flexible or innovative learning environments.
- 6. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING:** Share a recent achievement or experience that reflects an ongoing commitment to professional learning.



