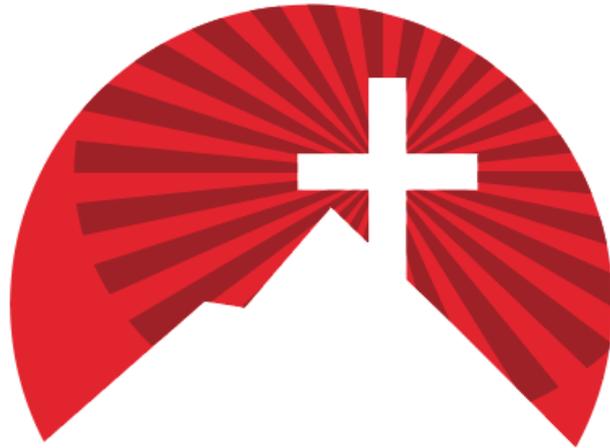


St Pius X Catholic School



St Pius X

KNOWING - DOING - CARING

Mōhiotanga - Mahinga - Manaakitanga

Parent Handbook 2021

St Pius X School Principal - Anna Wormald
120 Brooklands Road, New Plymouth 4310.

Tel (06) 753 4257 Cell 027 524 4470

email: office@stpiusx.school.nz web: www.stpiusx.school.nz

Welcome to the 2021 school year. At St Pius X we strive to achieve excellence in all areas through our Vision, Values and School Motto.

Our Vision

Within our Catholic community	Ki roto i te Hapori Katorika,
we empower learners	Ka hikitia te akonga,
to strive for personal excellence	Ki te tihi o te maunga
and to be future focused.	Hei oranga mo nga rā o mua

Our Gospel Values

Values are deeply held beliefs about what is important or desirable. They are expressed through the ways in which people think and act. We show Jesus' example of LOVE by living these Gospel Values in a Catholic faith community:

Community – Hapori, Compassion – Aroha, Truth – Pono, Service – Ratonga

Growing St Pius X Learners for Success

Culturally Aware

I am a learner who is culturally aware. I know my identity and respect the cultural traditions and heritage of our community.

Faith filled

I am a learner who lives the ways of Jesus to make a better life for myself and others.

Collaborator

I am a learner who is a team player. I engage with teachers and my peers, building partnerships within our school.

Risk Taker

I am a learner who is resilient. I am willing to try new ways to achieve goals, even when they might be challenging.

Creative Thinker

I am a learner who is curious and future focused and look for different ways to solve problems.

Self-Manager

I am a learner who can act independently, take ownership of my learning & be responsible for my actions.

Our Motto

Knowing...Doing...Caring
Mōhiotanga...Mahinga...Manaakitanga

Our Charism

"Never see a need without doing something about it."
St Mary MacKillop

Class Names Information

Giuseppe Sarto

Giuseppe Sarto was St Pius X's birth name. He was a Pope from 1903 until his death in 1914 and was known for allowing children from the age of seven to make their First Communion.

Huatoki

The Huatoki River is situated close to our school and we associate to this river through our school mihi.

Josephite

The Josephites' is a common name for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart who founded our school. This order was founded in Australia by Mary MacKillop but then spread to New Zealand to start new Catholic schools.

MacKillop

St. Mary MacKillop was the founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. She is known for starting a school for disadvantaged children. She was canonised a saint.

Mere

Mere is the Maori word for Mary. There are several important women named Mary who have connections with our school – Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary MacKillop and Sister Mary.

Mission

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions are an order of Missionary Sisters who took over the management of St Pius X School after the Josephite Sisters. They are an order of missionaries who were founded by Euphrasie Barbier.

Pukekura

Pukekura Park is a world-renowned park located near to our school. It contains a diverse range of landscapes, including many plant collections, exotic specimen trees, formal gardens, lakes and walking trails through native bush. It is the home of Brooklands Zoo.

Rickard

Father Rickard was the priest who worked with a committee of people to raise money to build a church next to St Pius X School. The Brooklands Saving Scheme was set up and after four years, St Philomena's Church was opened.

Philomena

Our school hall is named in remembrance of St Philomena Church that stood on the same grounds. The church was tragically lost through fire, in January 2014.

St Pius X School Staff for 2021

Principal	Anna Wormald
Deputy Principal/Learning Support Co-ordinator	Emma McIntosh
Deputy Principal/ Director of Religious Studies	Anne Dent

Teachers - full time

Bree Russell	Giuseppe Sarto	New Entrants (Term 2)
Anne Dent	Pukekura	Year 1-2
Stacey McEwan	Mission	Year 1-2
Madeline Wells/Tania Dowd	Rickard	Year 1-2
Jade Harrison	MacKillop	Year 3-4
Megan Careswell-King	Josephite	Year 3-4
Jacinta Radford	Huatoki	Year 5-6
Emma McIntosh	Mere	Year 5-6

Teachers - part time

Karen Maclean	Reading Recovery
Deb Johnston	Maths & Literacy Support
Anne Aitchison	Release Teacher
Jane Rogers	Release Teacher

Support Staff

Frances Moral	Office Administrator
Cheryl Soffe	Teacher Aide
Jackie Butterworth	Teacher Aide
Brenda Walsh	Teacher Aide
Anna Wells	Librarian
Mark Wormald	Caretaker
Helen Te Wake	Cleaner

2021 - School Year

Term 1: Thursday 4 February	to	Thursday 15 April
Term 2: Monday 3 May	to	Friday 9 July
Term 3: Monday 26 July	to	Friday 1 October
Term 4: Monday 18 October	to	Friday 17 December

Teacher Only Days

Term 1: Friday 16 April
Term 2: Tuesday 8 June
Term 3: TBC

Statutory Holidays 2021

Waitangi Day - observed	Monday 8 February
Taranaki Anniversary	Monday 8 March
Good Friday	Friday 2 April
Easter Monday	Monday 5 April
Easter Tuesday	Tuesday 6 April
Queen's Birthday	Monday 7 June
Labour Day	Monday 25 October

The Board of Trustees

Parents' Representatives	Alex Quinn Tim Stuck Carla Graham
Proprietor's Appointees	Daniel Wells Grant Novak
Staff Representative	Anne Dent
Principal	Anna Wormald

Our Board consists of 3 elected Parents' Representatives, Proprietor's Appointees, the Principal and a Staff Representative. Board of Trustees meetings are held once a month: dates and times of meetings are given in school newsletters. These are public meetings which follow the same rules as District Council Meetings. Minutes of these meetings are available from the school office. The Board of Trustees' role is governance.

Home & School Committee

Co-Presidents	Anna Quinn Catherine Grogan
Secretary	Helen Stuck
Treasurer	Craig Wisnewski
Pastoral Care	Michelle Archer
Staff Representatives	Deb Johnston & Stacey McEwan

You are welcome to follow us on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.co/stpiusxhomeschoolcommittee>

The Home & School Committee consists of parents and staff of the school. They are represented by a Committee selected at the AGM. The Home & School Committee fulfills a very active role in the life of the School and initiates social and fundraising activities. They are parents like you, so please offer to help whenever you can.

This booklet is designed to answer those questions about school that arise from time to time. It will answer most of your questions, but please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if something is not clear, or in the event of something arising that is outside the scope of this booklet. The items are in alphabetical order and occasionally cross-referenced.

Absences

To ensure children's safety it is essential that you notify the school if your child is going to be absent or late. You can do this in the following ways:

- Using the school app
- Text the school cellphone on 027 524 4470

Please give a reason for your child's absence. As a matter of procedure, unexplained absences are followed up by the office staff.

Any leave you require during the school term must be requested in writing to the Principal, through the office email. This will be approved on a case by case basis. Family holidays should be taken during school holiday time.

Animals

In keeping with our Health and Safety procedure dogs are not allowed on the school property at any time. **This includes weekends and after school hours.**

App

We recommend that all Parents/Caregivers download our school App onto their phones/tablets from the App store: School Apps NZ - St Pius X School New Plymouth. Please make sure you enable "push notifications" when you download the App to ensure you receive school wide messages regarding events, updates, sports cancellations, emergencies etc.

Assemblies

There will be three school assemblies each term. These will be held on Fridays at 2.20pm in Philomena Hall. Dates of these assemblies will be in the School newsletter and on the calendar on the school app. Teams will take turns to organise and lead the assembly, this is an opportunity to see children's work and celebrate success. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Attendance Dues – Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North

Attendance Dues are a charge payable to the Proprietor and a legal obligation being a condition of enrolment at integrated schools. Dues are not a donation, and they are not tax deductible.

The Attendance Dues team, on behalf of the proprietor of the school, will send you an attendance dues invoice in March each year. The invoice will show the full amount of attendance dues payable by you including attendance dues owing from the previous year (if any).

The Fee is currently set at \$455.00 per primary student per annum.

Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North

Te Rau Aroha

33 Amesbury Street

Private Bag 11-012

Palmerston North 4442

New Zealand

Phone: 0800 200 208

Email: dues@pndiocese.org.nz

Website: www.pndiocese.org.nz/dues

Bell Times

The school bell is rung at 8:55am to commence the day and the final bell is rung at 3.00pm to finish the day.

8.55 am	-	11.00 am	Morning Session 1
10.00 am	-	10.10 am	Munch/Crunch Time <small>junior classes only</small>
11.00 am	-	11.20 am	MORNING TEA
11.20 am	-	12.50 pm	Morning Session 2
12.50 pm	-	1.45 pm	LUNCH
1.45 pm	-	3.00 pm	Afternoon Session

It is expected that children are not at school until 8.15 am and collected by 3.10 pm unless prior arrangements have been made.

If arriving to school after the bell, children must report to the school office before going to class.

Birthdays

Students birthdays are acknowledged and celebrated in the classroom. We ask that parents do not send along lollies, cake or other treats to school for birthdays or Christmas.

Cellphones

Cellphones and any other electronic devices are not permitted to be held by students at school. If your child is required to bring a cellphone to school for use after school it must be handed to the office administrator for the duration of the school day.

Cultural Activities/Visiting Players

Occasionally, we have drama groups, musicians and dancers perform for the school. Charges for these performances are included in the annual School Donation.

Digital Technologies

A copy of our User Agreement for parents and students is included in the Enrolment Pack. The School does its best to restrict student access to offensive, dangerous or illegal material on the internet or other communication technologies but it is the responsibility of your child to have no involvement in such material or activities including any he/she may bring into the school environment.

All classrooms are equipped with ipads as well as chrome books for Year 5 & 6 students. These will be utilized as tools across the curriculum where appropriate.

Education Outside the Classroom

These form an integral part of the curriculum and are very important in providing a balanced teaching programme. All trips require a high ratio of adults to children, and parent help is required at these times. Use of parent cars is of great help for many of these trips. Our policy states it is a legal requirement for children under 7 years of age to be restrained in an approved restraint under New Zealand law. Adding to this, from the NZ Transport Authority, children from 7 - 8 years of age should be correctly secured in an approved child restraint if one is available if not, any restraint or a safety belt that is available.

For our school, this means that trips that require cars, will be following these guidelines. Students will be allocated to registered warranted vehicles whose drivers have a current full NZ drivers licence, at the teachers discretion.

Students under 7 years of age must provide a booster seat. We encourage students who are aged 7-8 years of age to bring a booster. If you have concerns about your child travelling in a car with another driver, you will need to provide your own transport for your child, and if this is not possible, arrangements will be made to have them stay at school.

All parents will be notified of any class trips outside the school grounds. Many of our staff have a current First Aid Certificate.

Camp

A school camp is held in Term 1 for Year 5 & 6 pupils. Camp provides an opportunity to pursue a range of outdoor activities outside of the normal classroom programme. Parents staying on an overnight school camp will be required to complete a Police Vet form.

Health Nurse

The school health nurse visits regularly and can be contacted if parents have concerns. Our school office holds her contact details.

Homework

Junior School:

This consists of taking reading books home to be read with parents.

Middle/Senior School:

Homework is more general and may come home from time to time.

Homework should not be considered as a new learning time but a continuing or reinforcing of work already met.

Houses

Children are allocated to Houses, family members will be in the same house. The four houses are:

Red Matiu (Matthew) Green Maaka (Mark)

Yellow Ruka (Luke) Blue Hone (John)

House events during the year may include activities such as cross country, swimming sports and athletics sports.

Independence

To promote independence children are encouraged to carry their own bags and complete morning tasks in the classroom by themselves. To support this it is important to be at school at least 10 minutes before the bell. At the end of the day please wait for your child outside the classroom.

Kapa Haka

All Classes are involved in song, Māori protocol and language led by Matua Clive each Thursday – Juniors 11.30am - 12.00pm
Seniors 12.00pm - 12.45pm

Leadership

Year 6 students will all hold Leadership roles. These will include Special Character Leaders, Young Vinnies Leaders, Sports Leaders, Environmental Leaders, Cultural Leaders, House Leaders and Library Leaders.

Library

All children will have the opportunity to visit our school library each week. Children can issue two books to take home and return to school the following week.

Lost Property

We store all lost property in sick bay and encourage parents to check for items whenever necessary. Children are encouraged to be responsible for their own clothing. **Please ensure clothing is named.**

Lunches

We encourage healthy eating therefore sweets, chewing gum and bubble gum are **NOT** permitted at school. Students need to bring fruit or raw vegetables for 'Munch Crunch' time.

Medication

Any medication that is required at school, whether regular or short-term is kept in the medical room and written permission must be given by parents/caregivers. A form is available from the office. Medication forms are updated yearly and it is appreciated if a child's health needs change that you inform the office.

Year 5 & 6 students are encouraged to manage their own inhalers which will be kept in their school bag.

Mission Shop Day

Every year (near Mission Sunday) we have a fundraising event for charity. The stalls, games and activities are planned and run by the Year 5 and 6 students.

Money at School

We prefer children not to have money of their own at school. When it is necessary for class/school trips, book clubs etc, please enclose money in an envelope with child's name and details written clearly on the outside. It may be necessary at times for a child to have money for after school. We would appreciate this being held by your child's teacher until then. Please enclose it once again in an envelope with their name on it.

Newsletters

Newsletters are distributed, as required, on the school App and via email and are also available in hard copy on request through the school office.

Other notices regarding school events, including sport, will be sent home as required.

Parent Concerns

If you have any concerns about your child, please remember your first point of contact is the school, and preferably their class teacher. It is important we are alerted to any difficulties as soon as possible so we can address them quickly and constructively.

It is critical for the school to be able to learn of your concerns first hand rather than from another parent. If you require specific information please arrange a time with the class teacher or the Principal.

Parent Help

We believe that education is a partnership and there are many positive ways parents can be involved in aspects of class programmes. Confidentiality is critical in this role. Parents are also a necessary help when classes go on educational trips away from school, or by sharing their expertise in sport, hobbies or crafts.

Reporting to Parents

During 2020 we trialled using a new 'real time' reporting system called Spotlight. Whilst there are aspects of 'real time' reporting that we really like, there were some huge challenges for both staff and parents with the operation of the Spotlight platform. After much discussion and feedback from our community the staff have decided not to continue using Spotlight as a platform to share student progress and achievement in 2021.

During Term 2, 2021 we will adopt 'Seesaw' as a form of 'real time' reporting which is a much more 'user friendly' platform.

Learning Partnership Conferences will be held at the end of Terms 1 and 3. At this time parents will receive a brief written summary of their child's learning and where they sit academically, socially and emotionally.

This will be a great opportunity for all three partners – student-parent-teacher to connect.

Religious Education

This is a vital part of the school day and all classes participate in regular religious instruction. Prayer is an important part of each day.

A parish/school family mass is held on the third Sunday of the month at St Joseph's Church on Powderham Street at 9.00am. As part of our commitment to the Catholic Faith, it is expected that families will attend and participate in this Mass.

Mass is celebrated most Fridays at 9am in Philomena Hall on a classroom rotation basis. We are joined at this time by members of the Parish. All parents/caregivers are welcome.

Class Masses take place once a year, during Term 3, in each classroom. Parents/Caregivers and extended family are invited to attend these special occasions. Dates for these are advertised in the School newsletter.

Road Safety

The school, supported by Community Police Officers, takes opportunities to teach and practice road safety. In the interests of safety, pupils and parents **must use the pedestrian crossing** if they have to cross Brooklands Road.

It is strongly recommended that parents:

-  use the pedestrian crossing
-  **Do Not** park over the school entrance or in the driveway
-  **Do Not** park over the neighbouring entrances
-  **Do Not** park too close to the crossing
-  **Do Not** park on the Bus Stop or Yellow Lines.
-  **Do Not** park in the staff carpark.

We are part of the New Plymouth District Councils initiative "Let's Go", which encourages students and their families to walk, ride or scooter to and from school each day.

Rubbish & Recycling

All pupils are encouraged to keep the school tidy. Recycled materials are placed in the appropriate bins.

School Donation - Per Annum

Your school donation of \$150.00 per child, per year, covers many of the following student activities & resources:

- Individual Class Expenses
- Activity/Cultural/School-wide performance costs
- Bus fares for whole school events, e.g. Production, Dance Expo, Church visits and Catholic Cluster Athletics Sports in Inglewood.
- Life Education Trust
- RE Digital Programme
- IT, Copyright and Photocopy Levy

Over and above these, there **may be additional costs** for individual class off-site 'one off' visits or educational activities, e.g. school camps for year 5 and 6, marae overnight stay, and swimming lessons that further support the classroom programme, but these are kept to the absolute minimum. **Some of these additional costs may be optional for selected students eg**, the Australian Maths/English Competition (ICAS).

All sport fees are an additional individual charge and these vary depending on the different clubs and organisations.

It is preferable that payment be made by directly to our account, noted below.

Name of Bank: TSB

Branch: Vogeltown, New Plymouth

Name of Account: St Pius X School Board of Trustees

Account Number: 15-3955-0491432-00

It is essential that you note the family name in the reference and if possible the account number. However if bank access is not available then payment can be made at the school office by cash or cheque. A receipt is always issued and sent home with your child. Please note that we have automatic payment forms available at the school office so that regular payments can be set up for easy management of your account.

School Policies

A Policy file is available for any interested parents in the school office.

School Prayer

Every Monday morning begins with school prayer and is led by a different classroom each week. Teachers will present a certificate for children's personal achievement and performance. Parents/Caregivers are welcome to join us.

Smoking

As per Smokefree legislation all buildings, facilities and grounds at St Pius X School are smokefree at all times.

Special Programmes

Piano Lessons

Private Piano lessons are available during class time by a qualified teacher, Amanda Henry phone (06) 757 2448.

Guitar and Ukelele lessons

Private guitar and ukulele lessons are available during class time by a qualified teacher, Joe Smither phone (06) 755 4432.

Sport

A regular programme of sporting options are available to all children. All sports fees need to be paid on registration to the school using online banking. We rely on parents for coaching and managing teams. Parents who volunteer for these roles will be required to complete a Police Vet form.

The senior school also participate in inter-school sports during the winter months.

A code of conduct for students, parents/supporters is required to be completed each year.

Stationery

Stationery lists are available from OfficeMax either for online ordering. Students starting as a new entrant from Term 2 onwards are to purchase stationery through the school office.

Sun Protection

It is compulsory for our children to wear the approved blue school sun hat in Terms 1 and 4 as per our BOT Health and Safety policy. We have a “No Hat - No Play” Policy, where children without a hat remain in a shaded area.

Children are also encouraged to wear sun block to school however, we have a school supply in each classroom for re-application.

Swimming

Swimming is a compulsory subject within the Health & Well-Being Curriculum. As St Pius X School does not have its own swimming pool, we negotiate with the Aquatic Centre and professional instructors to provide a series of lessons over three weeks. This is a very effective programme. Parents are requested to make a donation of \$55 per student towards the cost of this programme.

At the completion of our swimming programme we hold a ‘swimming display’ for students using the small pool and a ‘competitive swimming’ event for Years 3-6 who swim in the big pool.

Uniform

At St Pius X we take great pride in our school uniform. It is expected that the full uniform will be worn each day to and from school, this includes footwear. There may be occasions when children cannot wear the correct uniform, a brief note of explanation/or phone call will be necessary.

We have a few sizes of second hand uniforms available. You can purchase other items from Campus Clothing. The plain navy blue long sleeved polyprops are available from Postie Plus or The Warehouse. All clothes must be named.

Girls Summer Terms 1 & 4	Boys Summer Terms 1 & 4
Pinafore or Culottes Blue Short Sleeved Polo Red, St Pius X Polar Fleece (with St Pius X logo) Black Sandals Navy Blue Bucket Hat – can have name embroidered in white	Blue Short Sleeved Polo Grey Shorts (<i>summer weight</i>) Black Sandals Red, St Pius X Polar Fleece (with St Pius logo) Navy Blue Bucket Hat – can have name embroidered in white
Girls Winter Terms 2 & 3	Boys Winter Terms 2 & 3
Pinafore or Culottes Blue Short Sleeved Polo Red, St Pius Polar Fleece (with St Pius X logo) Dark Blue Socks or Tights Black Shoes (<i>no sports shoes</i>) Optional: Plain, navy blue, long sleeved, crew neck polyprop	Blue Short Sleeved Polo Grey Shorts Grey Socks Red, St Pius X Polar Fleece (with St Pius X logo) Black Shoes (<i>no sports shoes</i>) Optional: Plain, navy blue, long sleeved, crew neck polyprop

Sports Uniform

- Boys - Black (non-logo) shorts
- Girls - Black mid thigh to knee length leggings or shorts (non-logo)
- Red Sports Shirt (purchased direct from Campus Clothing)

Hair – Boys and Girls

Hair, if shoulder length or longer, must be tied up or pulled back off their face with hair ties that are in-keeping with our school colours. Plain hair ties or headbands are the most appropriate. All hair must be clear of the eyes.

Jewellery

Only studs may be worn in ears. Pendants or necklaces are not to be worn unless they are items of religious or cultural significance. All other jewellery is not permitted.

Nail Polish

Nail polish is not permitted

Visitors to School

We request that all visitors to the school check in at the School Office (except parents doing pick-ups and drop-offs at the beginning and end of the day). If your child is required to leave the school grounds during normal school hours to attend an appointment please advise the School Office. In an emergency we need to be able to account for all personnel in the school, including visitors.