

WHĀNAU MERCY MINISTRIES EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Mercy education expects that all who are involved in any capacity in Mercy education services are informed of and committed to the education philosophy of the Trust as set out in this Schedule 1.

Whānau Mercy Ministries are committed to the education of young women and girls, providing opportunities for learning which are grounded in the gospels, the founding spirit of Catherine McAuley and the teachings of the Catholic Church, especially those which affirm the dignity and worth of every human person. Mercy education is aimed at empowering women to achieve their full potential in creating a more just and peaceful world.

As embodied in the Charter of every Mercy college, Mercy's charism has a particular concern for the poor, uneducated and disadvantaged in whatever cultural or social context it operates. In this regard:

Mercy education:

- gives scope for fullness of growth in body, mind and spirit;
- respects the uniqueness, giftedness and culture of every person.

Mercy education:

- recognises Maori as tangata whenua and actively promotes Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the partnership covenant fundamental to Aotearoa New Zealand;
- educates for justice that arises from awareness and compassion, and works towards restoring right relationship with God, self, others and all creation;
- develops consciousness of the interrelatedness and interdependence of all people and all creation.

Mercy education:

- expresses the mercy and justice of Jesus in relationships, structures and school-community endeavours through practising mutuality, trust, collaboration and openness, rather than approaches which are exclusive, authoritarian or competitive;
- promotes excellence, integrity and commitment in all teaching, student and school endeavours;
- provides an experience of a prayerful Catholic and Christian learning community that is open to the realities and needs of the local, national and world communities;
- encourages, through the school learning community experience, a desire for lifelong growth in faith, and in the fullest use of each person's gifts for the transformation of the Earth in Christ.