



# JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

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## SCHOOL STATEMENT – 2009

### Introduction:

**John Paul II High School** is an integrated Catholic co-educational Year 9 to Year 13 secondary school serving the Catholic community of Westland. With a roll currently of 135 students, it is more than a school; it is a family where each staff member comes to know each student personally. While providing an education for our youngsters, of a quality which is higher than many of our equivalent decile six schools and those secondary schools in our area, our school develops and enhances values such as honesty, integrity, self discipline, caring for others, hard work and community concern. Our ethos is based on consideration for others, courtesy towards others and co-operation with others.

### Location and Context:

**John Paul II High School** is located in central Greymouth immediately behind Tai Poutini Polytechnic. To the south of our school is situated our sister school and main feeder, St. Patrick's Primary School. Our school is located at 10 Alexander Street Greymouth, and since it is the combination of what was Marist Brothers' High School for boys and St. Mary's High School for girls, the main road runs through the centre of it. Greymouth lies between the Southern Alps and the Tasman sea next to the Grey River (Mawhera te awa). It is a small town of approximately 12,000 people. The temperature ranges between  $-1^{\circ}$  to  $28^{\circ}$  C, average rainfall is about 850mm but snow does not settle often in the town. Ski fields are about 1½ hours drive from Greymouth and Lake Kanierie and Lake Brunner are about 40 minutes drive from the town.

The buildings and grounds are well maintained and since the school was designed for a maximum roll of 240 students, we are a very well-appointed school. While playground space is generous, playing field areas are limited. However, we have a reasonable gymnasium and good netball and tennis court areas.

### Governance:

The Greymouth Catholic Schools' Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the governance of both Catholic schools. The Board's Constitution protects the autonomy of each of the schools under their governance. Our school has been blessed with a succession of extremely supportive Boards of Trustees and we see no indication that this will change. Catholic school Boards of Trustees are a bit larger than state school equivalents because they have additional trustees known as *Bishop's (or Proprietor's) Representatives* and their prime concern is to look after the interests of our Special Catholic Character. Both the Education Review Office and the Catholic Education Office produced favourable reports after reviewing this school in August and September 2004.

### Collegiality:

The size of our staff allows tremendous collegiality and the success of our teaching and learning programmes within our school reflect the team work and support each staff member has for the others. Teachers are made to feel welcome and an integral part of our whole institution within a very short time. As a result, teachers relate well with their students.

### Students:

Our young people serve their age group superbly and generally are fine, well mannered youngsters who, in most part, enjoy their schooling time with us. They are well received within the community

and in most cases will make the extra effort to reflect positively on their school when they are in the public arena. Pastoral Care of students is a prime focus for staff as it is an essential area of our Special Character. As a result, staff members make every effort to get to know their students well and form positive relationships with them. This enhances our teaching and learning environments.

### **Mission Statement:**

*John Paul II High School offers families a comprehensive education in a school culture which encourages and develops: personal academic excellence; personal growth; and life and faith in accordance with the values of Jesus Christ and Catholic Tradition.*

### **Staff:**

We have a highly experienced, committed and motivated teaching staff that often goes the extra distance for our students.

### **Culture:**

The school supports a Kapahaka group, rock bands, debating and public speaking teams.

### **Biculturalism:**

Respect and support for Maori students through Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori across the curriculum. Currently 13% of our school population is comprised of Māori students.

### **Sporting:**

Our students have the opportunity of being involved with tennis, cricket, squash, basketball, netball, athletics, swimming, soccer, rugby, hockey, volleyball and table tennis. An earlier student, Lisa Kersten represented New Zealand in softball at the Sydney Olympics and was a member of the Whitesocks when they won the World Softball Championships. Craig De Goldi, another old boy, gained an olympic gold medal as vice captain of the winning Rugby Sevens team.

### **Technology and ICT:**

The school offers a full technology programme on-site as well as supporting the teaching of technology to a number of year 7 and 8 students from off-site schools. We have about 63 computers and supporting ICT hardware including that of data projection and computerised electronic embroidering equipment for fabric technology.

### **Academic:**

Students are supported to achieve to their personal potential in a full junior curriculum and a relatively wide senior curriculum, (considering the size of the school.) Retention rates through the senior school are high and we have one of the lowest rates of students leaving schools with no formal qualifications when compared with other decile 5 schools. Our university students have a very high rate of success and we have provided secondary education for scientists, lawyers, accountants, professional engineers, school teachers, pilots, accountants, television executives, radio and television personalities, nurses and the occasional PhD. among others.

### **Why small is good:**

All staff and students know each other personally. This enables sound pastoral care which adds to the students' feeling of security in the school.

Small classes mean greater access to teachers for more one-to-one help and less behaviour problems. Also facilitates the development of individualised learning programmes for students to learn at their own rates. Consequently, the academic achievements of our students stacks up well against those of other similar schools.

Very few students are not able to access the options of their choice or any cultural or sporting group they wish to be a part of.

School-wide change is easily and rapidly implemented.

**Free Transport from Hokitika:**

Each year, a BOT subsidised, free to families, bus service has been established to allow Hokitika Catholic students to attend our school. This has enabled a Catholic education for Hokitika families without the expense and inconvenience of having to attend a boarding school.