



St Martins School Parent/Caregiver Consultation

Parents and caregivers of St Martins School have been asked about their hopes for the future of the school, and the skills and attributes that they would like to see in their new Principal. The following ideas were themed and grouped from a survey sent to all parents and caregivers of the school. Their own words are used where appropriate.

The Future of St Martins School

In 5 years' time, how do you think the St Martins School community will be different from how it is now, and how does this affect the characteristics we should look for in a new Principal?

Parents and Caregivers see...

- More cultural diversity, requiring an inclusive Principal who embraces differences, adapting to the needs of different students and families.
- Many different changes, requiring a Principal who is forward thinking and able to manage change.
- Parents who have many commitments outside the school, requiring a Principal who creates strong partnerships with parents and encourages them to be actively involved with the school.
- St Martins as the hub of the community, requiring a Principal who is caring and involves parents to create a strong school community.
- Changes with the rebuild, requiring a Principal who leads with courage, creativity, innovation, and evidence based best practice.
- Developments in technology, requiring a Principal who understands the role that technology will play in children's lives and explores the role it plays in education.
- The need for emotional support, requiring a Principal who prioritises mental health and wellbeing, and provides avenues of support for students and their families.

St Martins School Now

What makes our school standout and what sets us apart from other schools?

- The strong community spirit and sense of belonging, with caring and supportive parents who are engaged in their children's learning.

- The committed, compassionate, and motivated staff who are dedicated to student wellbeing and learning.
- The beautiful hillside setting.
- The strong school values that are reinforced daily and are evident throughout the school.
- The wide range of opportunities offered to students, especially through the performing arts programme and sports.
- The culture of the school with strong leadership and management that leads with inclusivity and respect for all.

What is St Martins School doing well?

- Caring and nurturing staff who are full of positivity and are friendly and approachable.
- An interesting and applied curriculum and excellent academic teaching.
- A strong arts focus that is integrated into the curriculum, including an excellent performing arts programme, music and art.
- A variety of opportunities and programmes for students to engage in, including Garden to Plate, Eco Action, sports, coding and leadership opportunities.
- Open and friendly communication between the school and parents, creating a positive partnership that benefits student learning.
- Strong core values that are lived by all at the school, encouraging children to look at their responsibility as global citizens.
- A positive culture of respect, support, celebrating success and focus on personal best.

The New Principal

In thinking about your future Principal, what strengths or skills do you see as most important?

Skills, Attributes and Values

- An inspirational leader who is a role model, with vision and drive and the ability to lead change.
- Strong communication skills and a people person who gets to know the students, staff and parents.
- A Principal who can connect with children, valuing their contributions and creating an environment in which all students can excel.
- A Principal who is future-focussed and executes plans in collaboration with government agencies, and with an understanding of budget.
- An empathetic leader who is friendly, approachable, caring, listens, and is passionate about the Principalship.
- A compassionate Principal who values cultural inclusiveness and diversity and champions equitable opportunity for all.

Knowledge and Experience

- Experience in education within New Zealand, and as a successful Deputy Principal or Principal with the ability to lead change.
- Knowledge of modern practices and innovative teaching and learning, including the use of technology to prepare children for success.
- Knowledge of childhood development and how children learn at different ages, including in relation to special education.
- Knowledge of Christchurch post-quakes and an understanding of the challenges the community has faced in light of this.

Above all else, the parents would like a Principal who listens to the community, puts student needs above all else, and who is a good fit for their community