

Report to the Christchurch Diocesan Synod May 2026

The Cathedral Grammar School was established in 1881 to educate the choristers of the Cathedral. Today, the school still fulfils that function with 19 boys and 17 girls in the Choristers. We maintain strong links with the Cathedral, Dean Ben and Cathedral staff, and the Warden, Bishop Peter.

The Cathedral Grammar School consists of a Pre-School, Junior School (Years 1-3), Girls' School (Years 4-8), and Boys' School (Years 4-8). There is also a team of specialist teachers for art, music, physical education, science, and religious education lessons. The House system provides opportunities to work with different students across the school. Swimming sports, cross-country, athletics, and other events throughout the year help to create a strong House spirit as every participant earns points for their House and the chance to win the House Cup at the end of the year.

At The Cathedral Grammar School, faith, hope, and love are at the heart of all we do as we set about nurturing, knowing, and growing our students in a holistic, spiritual, and heart-focused manner. Each child attends two Chapel services and has one Religious Education lesson each week. The pre-school children have a Chapel service each week. Five times a year, the school has a service in the Transitional Cathedral.

Major activities in the last year (May 2025-May 2026)

- 21 May 2025 – the first Evensong Services sung by the Boy Choristers in the Cathedral in the Square since February 2011
- 22 May 2025 – the first time the Girls Choristers sang Evensong in the Cathedral in the Square
- Operettas in Term 3, 2025 – Junior School: Finding Nemo; Prep School: Cats
- A third New Entrant class opened in Term 3 2025, and again in Term 2 2026
- The Strategic Plan was implemented in June 2025
- August 2025 – Year 7 and 8 students gave a presentation on our EnviroSchools actions at the Anglican Schools' Conference
- Regular events include:

- Back to School BBQ – a fun event to welcome current and new families back to school
- Xtend Sports programme continues to offer a range of non-traditional sports opportunities, such as archery, surfing, and velocity carts, for Year 4–8 students in T1.
- Prep School camps continue to be a highlight: Y4 at Living Springs, Y5 at Wainui, Y6 at Hanmer Springs, Y7 at Boyle River, Y8 at Castlehill.
- Interschool winter and summer sporting exchanges with Waihi, Medbury, and St Andrews.
- Termly concerts for students attending Itinerant music lessons.
- The annual Art Exhibition showcases the amazing creativity of students. Every student, including pre-school students, has at least one piece of art displayed in this exhibition.
- Professional Development and implementation of the new NZ Maths and English curricula continue.
- Introduction of a new student management system – HERO.
- Ongoing cultural capability professional development across the school, contracting Janelle Riki from Riki Consultants to facilitate this.
- sKids contracted to provide a Holiday Programme on site.

Major activities planned for the coming year

- Undertake future-focused campus planning, including properties/facilities feasibility study to assess infrastructure needs.
- Develop plans for the next new facility on our site.
- Develop a plan for the effective use of Inveresk House.
- Develop clear policies, procedures, systems and structures around the use of AI.
- Celebrate and embrace cultural diversity through inclusive practices, integration of Te Reo Māori, and recognition of significant cultural events.
- Have a Cultural Narrative produced for our school.

Scott Thelning
Principal

Andrew Shaw
Board Chair

Teresa Kundycki-Carrell
Chaplain