



**TOTARA
COLLEGE**

Press Towards The Mark

Reaching our God given potential:
spiritually, academically, socially and physically

www.totaracollege.school.nz

Dannevirke Christian Fellowship

The Hub

Serving the Present, creating the Future

Belonging Influence Authentic Spirit Life

**Totara College is an Integrated School with a Special Character:
That Special Character is the Christian Faith**

Students with parents/guardians who established a "particular or general connection" with the Special Character of the college, or where the student is over 12 years of age, have themselves established a "particular or general connection" with the Special Character of the college can be given a preference of enrolment at Totara College

A Particular Connection is for those who can confirm an ongoing confession of the Christian Faith

A General Connection is for those who may not have affirmed the Christian Faith but are wanting to support the Faith and the aspects of the School that are Christian

"The school was founded on the intent to support parents and caregivers in their role of raising children in the ways of God!"

School Moto:

"Press Towards The Mark"

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14 (KJV)

Vision:

**Reaching our God given potential:
spiritually, academically, socially and physically**

You should love Him, your True God, with all your heart and soul, with every ounce of your strength. Make the things I'm commanding you today part of who you are. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you're sitting together in your home and when you're walking together down the road. Make them the last thing you talk about before you go to bed and the first thing you talk about the next morning. Do whatever it takes to remember them: Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (Voice)

Mission Statement:

Totara College provides Biblically based, Christian education to assist parents in their God-given task to bring up their children in the "training and instruction of the Lord" so that they may, "serve and love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength"

Introduction to the *Christian worldview*

Worldview

The core beliefs through which you see the world around you.

We all have a worldview and it affects every human.

It is like wearing glasses that tint what we see. The fact is we are all biased and our lenses focus more on different aspects around us. The key for growth is the hope of finding biases that are biased on truth.

Christianity is more than a religion, it is a whole way of seeing the world.

Like a map – it represents something real and true – it represents our reality.

It often takes a significant transition in life to bring us to place where we have an open mind to change

A Christian accepts that God gives all truth. And through sin we see degradation around us.

Salvation is given, not earned and we serve God, not ourselves. With Him all things are possible.

A Christian Worldview

A Christian is simply someone who follows the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was a Jew around 2000 years ago, who called for humanity to come back to God and follow him.

A) Abba (Love) Father, God's Purpose for humanity has always been to be in loving relationship with us.

We keep turning from him, following our own way, separating ourselves from Him.

B) Begotten (from God) Son, Jesus means God Saves,

He came to lead people back to God, teaching and miraculously healing and freeing them, then He died paying the greatest price for all who would believe and confess. He rose from death and went back to His Father.

C) Comforter, Counselor, Spirit, God sent The Holy Spirit to continue the work in a New Kingdom in and through those who will follow Him.

There are many things that can be shared to help reveal the greatness and truth of God:

Endless examples can be found in Creation showing an incredible intricate design and purpose to all life.

Historical records and archaeology continue to provide undeniable evidence of the accuracy of the Biblical narrative.

The millions of people who testify to real life changing encounters with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is often seen as the most revealing way to know God. It is the ongoing story or narrative of God and His people, it is often referred to as God's Word because it is Him speaking to us. As there is so much in the Bible, a lot of the foundational or doctrinal truths have been summarised in Faith Statements that all Christians accept and believe.

Statement of Faith Explanations

(Used with permission from the New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust (NZCPT))

Article 1

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is love, God is holy, and God is the source of all wisdom.

Celtic Trinity
Knot



God is one Being who exists in three Persons

God is the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. The Father is God. Jesus (the Son) is God. The Holy Spirit is God. **ONLY** the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are God.

Analogies

- like water which can be ice, liquid and steam.
- like a man who is a father, a son and an uncle.
- like a 3-leaf clover, or triangle; 1 object, but 3 different, identifiable leaves, or sides
- like a single egg is made up of the yolk, the whites, and the shell
- like us made in Gods image, spirit, soul, and body.
- God asks us to love Him in heart, mind and strength

Here we affirm there is one God, not many, and that God has revealed himself as a trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have co-existed from eternity in perfect unity and will exist forever.

Article 2

In his sovereignty, God created the heavens and the earth, and declared them good. God upholds and sustains all things.

Here we affirm that God is the creator, and he created in sovereign freedom, not out of necessity. The reference to God's sovereignty also points to God's rule over creation and his ability to accomplish his purposes.

Article 3

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father. Through him and for him all things were created. He is God incarnate, the true image of God, fully God and fully human.

Here we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. Christians become children of God when we are united with Christ. We also affirm that the Son became incarnate, i.e. God in the flesh. This is also acknowledged in the Nicene Creed.

Article 4

God created human beings in his own image. As image bearers we are designed for relationship with God and with one another, are blessed to be fruitful and productive in all areas of life, to the glory of God, and are entrusted with the stewardship and care of God's world.

God created human beings, male and female, in his image and likeness. Although we are now flawed, and sin distorts the way we image God, we are still God's image bearers. All human beings have dignity and value. They are precious to God.

We were created to be in relationship with God and others and to be fruitful and productive in all of creation to God's Glory.

Article 5

Our relationship with God, with others, and with creation was fractured when sin, evil, and death entered the world. All have sinned and are unable to restore their relationship with God by their own efforts.

Scripture reveals that sin, death, and the devil/evil have brought havoc to God's world and fractured relationships, and human beings cannot solve this situation by themselves. Human beings are captives in need of deliverance; sinners in need of forgiveness; victims in need of healing; and subject to death and in need of redemption. Even the creation is broken and waits for its liberation.

Article 6

Therefore, God sent his only Son into the world. Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a holy, loving, and sinless life. He was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day he rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and now reigns at the right hand of the Father.

We affirm that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

We affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus, and we affirm that Christ now reigns in heaven at the right hand of God the Father.

Article 7

Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God revealed himself to the world, defeated the powers of sin, evil, and death, provided for our salvation and reconciliation to Him, inaugurated the kingdom of God, and is working to renew all things. Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of the new creation.

We affirm that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God has defeated the powers of sin, death, and evil/the devil. Consequently, people can respond to God's offer of salvation. With God's grace they can turn away from sin and turn towards God. They can place their faith/trust in Jesus Christ. People can receive forgiveness of sins, deliverance from evil, be reconciled to God, experience the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, and look forward in hope to the resurrection of their bodies.

Jesus is the first of the new creation.

Article 8

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is at work in the world bringing people to faith, drawing them to God, guiding them into truth, and working in them regeneration and transformation so that those in Christ will be conformed to his image. All the redeemed in Christ are united by the Holy Spirit and belong to one, holy, universal Church.

The term “regeneration” refers to the work of the Holy Spirit that makes us “born again” (John 3:5-8), “alive in Christ” (Eph. 2:4-5), a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

The Holy Spirit’s work of “transformation” in the life of the believer, enables them to grow in Christ-likeness and to be conformed to the image of Christ

Article 9

We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God. As the supreme account of God’s activity in the world, they attest to Christ and are trustworthy and authoritative. The Holy Scriptures are God’s word to us through human authors.

We affirm that the Holy Scriptures are divinely inspired, trustworthy and authoritative, and will achieve the purposes for which God intended. Through Scripture, God has revealed himself to us. And through Scripture, the Holy Spirit continues to speak and guide the church today. We also acknowledge that the Scriptures were written by real people in real history.

Article 10

Creation is moving toward its God ordained goal, when Christ will return as King, the dead will be resurrected, God will bring about his final justice and reconciliation, and the heavens and earth will be made new.

Here the focus is on the future, the end of the age. We affirm that God in his sovereignty is providentially guiding history and all creation toward the goal God intended from the beginning. We have emphasised Christ’s return as king because of our focus on the kingdom of God. The words justice and reconciliation capture well what God will accomplish at the end of the age, but it is also about saving the oppressed and putting things right. In the final consummation, Christ will judge the living and the dead, he will eradicate all evil and death, and creation will be made new. Then he will hand the kingdom back to the Father and God will be all in all.

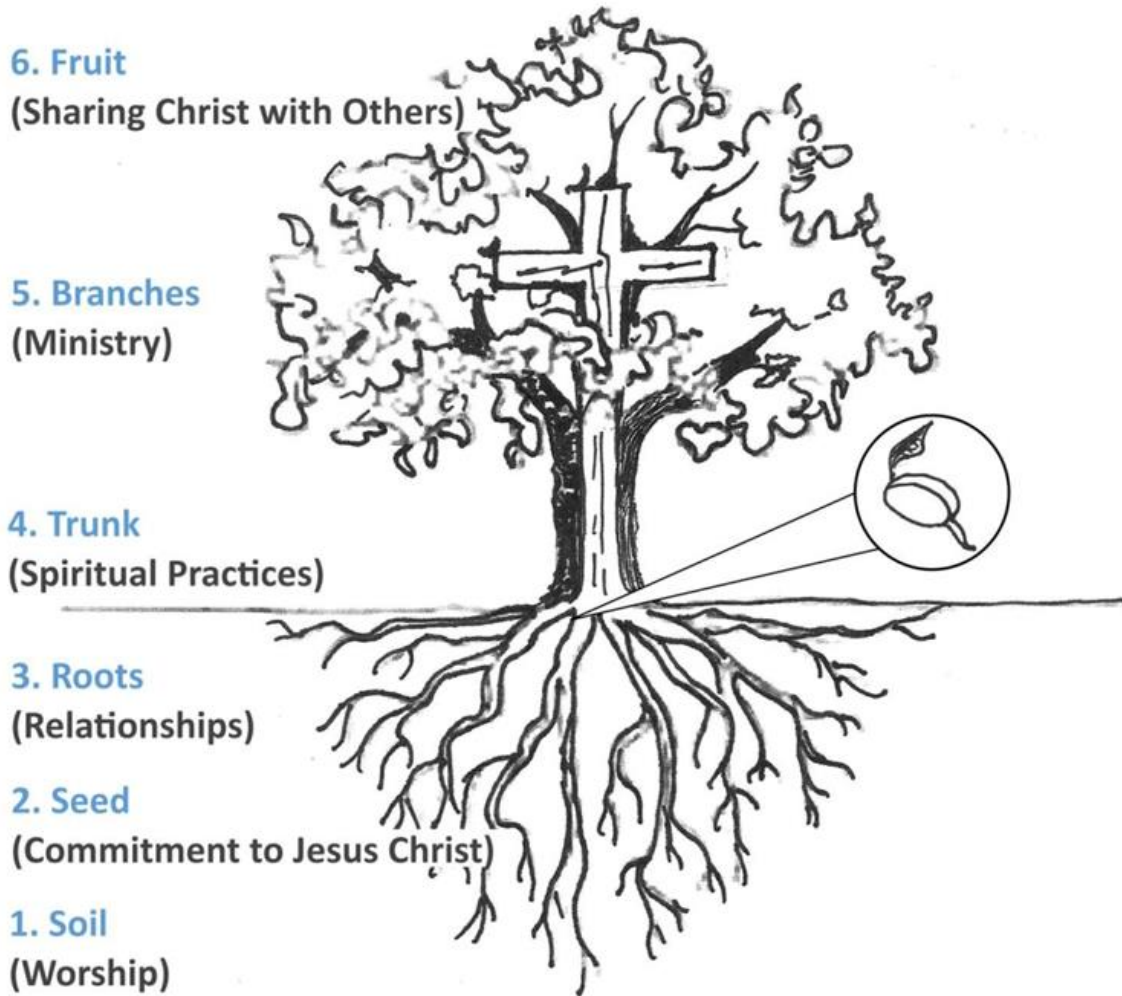
Article 11

To be disciples of Christ is to respond to Christ’s call and to participate in God’s story as revealed in Scripture: to seek to know God’s word and bear witness to his gospel; to seek to know and share in God’s work and world; to form communities of faithfulness; and to be co-labourers with Christ in the renewal of all things.

This last article sums up our calling as Christ’s disciples today.

The Tree of Discipleship

Acts 2:42-47



Tree Rings of Faith

Exploring Christ ("I believe in God, but I'm unsure about who Jesus is")

Growing in Christ ("I am getting to know Jesus personally")

Close to Christ ("Jesus is a part of my daily life")

Surrendered to Christ ("Jesus is greater than anything else in my life")

Special Character Guidelines

(Used with permission from the New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust (NZCPT))

Dannevirke Christian Fellowship and New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust (NZCPT) are Proprietors of Totara College and as such provide a Christ-centred learning environment where all aspects of school life, learning, and relationships are informed by Scripture and shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The core beliefs, commitments, and values that can be seen in our documents, Special Character Statements [Spiritual Foundations Document, Statement of Faith, and Introduction to a Christian Worldview] are expressed through seven core practices of the Special Character Guidelines outlined below:

Theological Framework

Community/People

Human Formation

Holy Scripture

Knowing/Learning

Curriculum/Pedagogy

Community Engagement & Work/Vocation

Seven Core Practices

Valuing and respecting others

Christ-like character formation

Engaging with the Scriptures

Thinking theologically

Delivering a Christ-centred Curriculum

Mission/Vocation/Service

The Seven Core Practices: their purpose and function

The seven core practices guide us as we seek to provide an environment where students can grow in faith, hope, and love.

We endeavour to be communities that are inspired by the love of God, heartened by faith in Jesus Christ, and motivated by the gospel of hope

Inspired by Love/Aroha we...

1. foster a culture and habit of prayer/karakia and sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit, desiring to connect with God and see his kingdom come in every situation;
2. value and treat ourselves and others with respect and consideration, recognising that we are all created in God's image and are deeply loved by God;
3. fix our eyes on Jesus and seek to grow in Christ-like character while extending grace towards others, recognising that we are each a work in progress.

Heartened by Faith/ Whakapono we...

4. provide students with opportunities to read, explore, and study the Scriptures so that they may encounter God, grow in faith and understanding, be renewed in their hearts and minds, and become skilled in interpreting the Scriptures wisely;
5. endeavour to think theologically about all of life, searching out the truth together and listening to one another in humility;
6. deliver a Christ-centred curriculum that is informed by Scripture, inspires curiosity, wonder, and respect for God's world, and enables students to see how Christ is connected to all their learning.

Motivated by Hope/Tūmanako we...

7. cultivate an intentional outward focus expressed through mission, vocation, and service, participating in Christ's work of reconciliation, restoration, and renewal.

The Christian worldview is integrated throughout the ACE PACES and also into the state NCEA curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to integrate the Christian worldview into their own subject matter. So this means Prayer, Devotions and Biblical beliefs are shared daily.

General Connection Agreement

Attend and complete an Enrolment course covering “Introduction to a Christian Worldview”, “Statement of Faith explanations”, and “Special Character Guidelines”. This is for Parents/Guardians/Student over 12

Have read and agree to support each set of documents, Special Character Statements [Spiritual Foundations Document, Statement of Faith, and Introduction to a Christian Worldview] and College Requirements [Enrolment Application (includes Parent Agreement), Medical / Health / Photos Authorisation Form, Blanket Consent Form, ICT Safety and adhere to Totara Vision and Values, and School Policies] all found in the Prospectus or Website. Both Parent/Caregiver and students 12 and over are asked to sign these.

Continue to uphold and actively support the intention and integrity of the documents signed. To maintain the Integrity of intent and support, these documents will be reread and signed each year.

Attend regular Christian services at least once a term to demonstrate the intent to align with the Christian Special Character. If the Special Christian Character is reported as not supported, we may ask to attend another course or get a Reference form to remain in the Preference Criteria.

I agree to support this document of Christian worldview

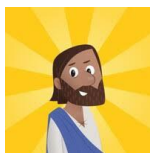
Signed: _____ Date: _____



www.hopeproject.co.nz/christian-hope/



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