



Excellere College

Special Character Review Report

June 2025

REVIEW TEAM:

Mark Larson (Review Lead, NZCPT Chair)
Philip Mark Bradley (CEO, NZCPT)
Colette Büdler (KingsWay School Associate Principal (Teaching & Learning Practice))
Dr Jacqui Lloyd (Review Consultant, NZCPT Theological Advisor and Educator)

DETAILS:

Location:	39 Great North Road, Kamo, Whangarei
School Type:	Co-educational Composite, Year 0-13
Student Roll Number:	333
Staff Number	35
Land Trust:	Whangarei Christian Education Trust (WCET)

Principal:	Andy Mouat	andy.mouat@excellerecollege.school.nz
Board Presiding Member:	Petrus Nel	petrus.nel.nz@gmail.com
Land Trust Chair:	Vaughan Darby	vdarby@darby.co.nz

The Review Team gratefully acknowledges Andy Mouat (Principal), the Leadership Team, and their Administrative Assistants for the hospitality and support received throughout the review.

Executive Summary

On June 4 and 5, 2025, a team of three undertook a Special Character Review of Excellere College. Reviewers included Mark Larson (Chair, NZCPT, former Principal of Middleton Grange School and former AIS CEO), Philip Mark Bradley (CEO of the NZ Christian Proprietors Trust), and Colette Büdler (KingsWay School). They were supported by Dr Jacqui Lloyd, NZCPT Theological Advisor and Educator, in a consultancy role. It is good practice for a proprietor to review the school's Special Character externally. This usually occurs once every three years.

The review focused on one key question: "Is there evidence that the seven core practices in the NZCPT Special Character Guidelines are being implemented and experienced at Excellere College?" These seven core practices are defined in the Special Character Guidelines, first published in 2019. The School has been on a journey of implementing these practices into the life and culture of Excellere College since Term 3, 2020.

The review team found that Excellere College is delivering a vibrant and authentic Christian learning environment that reflects strong alignment with the NZCPT Special Character expectations. Staff, students, and parents alike affirm the visible outworking of the Christian faith across school life, supported by a gracious and unified staff culture and leadership marked by integrity and spiritual depth. The recent appointment of Principal Andy Mouat has been widely welcomed, with his leadership noted as both Godly and effective in balancing academic and spiritual priorities.

Notable strengths include a pervasive culture of prayer and worship, clear alignment between home, church, and school values, and a staff community marked by joy, collegiality, and theological engagement. Students—particularly those in Years 7–10—display strong biblical literacy and articulate their faith with confidence. Support staff feel deeply integrated, and the positive impact of Special Character professional development is evident.

The school has responded positively to several recommendations from the 2022 review, especially around staff induction, clarification of enrolment preference criteria, and the emerging use of curriculum frameworks to support biblical teaching. However, some areas remain underdeveloped, including school-wide planning for Christian Living and Devotions, consistent Special Character expression in Senior College, and clarity of Board governance roles related to Special Character.

The review makes four strategic recommendations:

1. Establish a coherent Years 1–13 Christian Living and Devotions framework.
2. Strengthen Board governance and oversight of Special Character.
3. Reinforce Special Character in the Senior Curriculum.
4. Increase Special Character fluency for all staff, including support staff.

The Review Team sincerely commends Excellere College for its evident faithfulness, unity, and clear Gospel witness, and encourages the school to continue maturing and embedding these practices for the flourishing of students, staff, and the wider community.



Mark Larson

Review Team Leader, June 2025