Report to the Board

Audit of Monte Cecilia Catholic School

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Audit New Zealand
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

Key messages

Audit status

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of Monte Cecilia Catholic School (the 'School'), as presented in your annual report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Finalisation of the audit report is subject to the receiving signed annual report and representation letter, and completion our final review of the printer's proof. No significant audit matters are outstanding.

Audit report

We intend on issuing an unmodified audit report on or before 31 May 2026. We are satisfied that the financial statements fairly present the School's activities for the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

Audit preparedness

The School provided a complete set of draft financial statements in a ready-to-audit state by 31 March 2026, enabling the audit to be completed in a timely manner.

The School was well prepared for the year-end audit and worked in a collaborative manner with the Audit Team. This helped us improve the transparency, understandability, and usefulness of information as presented in your annual report.

Annual report

The annual report also includes the financial statements and other information, such as the Statement of Variance, Evaluation of the School's Students' Progress and Achievement, Statement of Compliance with Employment Policy, and Statement of KiwiSport funding. While this information is not within the scope of the audit, we consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

In our view, the annual report is comprehensive, balanced, and informative, and provides a fair representation of the School's activities and achievements for the year.

Audit amendments

The financial statements are free from material misstatements, including omissions.

During the audit, we have discussed with management any misstatements that we found, other than those which were clearly trivial. We are satisfied that these misstatements are individually and collectively immaterial.

Other findings

This report sets out the matters that we consider need to be considered by the Board when approving the annual report, in respect to the information we have audited.

This report also outlines any findings on potential improvements to your system and controls, as identified from our audit procedures. We note these findings are “housekeeping” in nature and are not considered significant.

Thank you

We would like to thank the Board, the Principal, you Service Provider and all staff for the assistance they provided during the audit.

Appointed Auditor
13 May 2026

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Areas of Audit Focus

The table below provides an overview of key areas of focus as identified during the planning stage of the audit. No additional areas of risk were identified during the year-end audit.

Focus area	Outcome
Risk of management override of internal controls	
There is an inherent risk in every organisation of fraud resulting from management override of internal controls. Management are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Auditing standards require us to treat this as a risk on every audit.	Our responsibility is to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements and performance information are free from material misstatement, including any resulting from fraud. Based on work performed we are satisfied that no concerns were identified concerning management's ability to override key controls and/or manipulate accounting results. In addition, we have not identified any specific fraud risk or other factors that necessitated a change in our planned audit approach. We are satisfied with management's policies, processes, and controls for limiting the risk of fraud. No fraudulent activities were detected based on our audit work performed.

Other findings

The table below summarises the audit findings that identify opportunities to strengthen and support existing reporting systems and processes.

Findings	Recommendation	School comments
Documented approval of religious education course expenditure		
We reviewed the religious education course expenditure during the audit on a sample basis and assessed the appropriate as appropriate However, it appears that there was no evidence available to demonstrate this expenditure had been approved, and the specific course was not referenced in the Principal's Reports or Board minutes reviewed. We understand that the staff development courses align with the school's Catholic character and strategic goals. Nevertheless, consistent with other expenditure approval of this expenditure should be formally documented.	We recommend that approval of all staff development courses and similar expenditure is supported by documented approval, such as Board endorsement or authorised sign-off.	Acknowledged and accepted by the school.

Appendix A – Public Sector Audits

The School is accountable to Parliament, their local community, Ministry of Education and to the public for its use of public resources. Everyone who pays taxes or rates has a right to know that the money is being spent wisely and in the way the school said it would be spent.

As such, public sector audits have a broader scope than private sector audits. As part of our audit, we have considered if the school has fairly reflected the results of its activities in its financial statements.

We also consider if there is any indication of issues relevant to the audit with:

- Compliance with its statutory obligations that are relevant to the annual report;
- The carrying out its activities effectively and efficiently;
- Waste being incurred as a result of any act or failure to act by the school;
- Any sign or appearance of a lack of probity as a result of any act or omission, either by the school or by one or more of its members, office holders, or employees; and
- Any sign or appearance of a lack of financial prudence as a result of any act or omission by the school or by one or more of its members, office holders, or employees.

No concerns were identified from our review of the school's transactions that need to be brought to your attention.

Appendix B —Mandatory disclosures

Our responsibilities in conducting the audit

We carried out this audit on behalf of the Controller and Auditor-General. We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001.

The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or the Board of their responsibilities. Our audit engagement letter contains a detailed explanation of the responsibilities of the auditor and the Board.

Auditing standards

We carry out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards. The audit cannot and should not be relied upon to detect every instance of misstatement, fraud, irregularity, or inefficiency that are immaterial to your financial statements. The Board and management are responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal control for detecting these matters.

Auditor independence

We confirm that, for the audit of the School for the year ended 31 December 2025, we have maintained our independence in accordance with the requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the External Reporting Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the School.

Fees

The audit fee excluding GST for the year is $11,099 (net of funding provided to the School from MOE) as detailed in our Audit Proposal Letter. No other fees have been charged in this period.

Other relationships

We are not aware of any situations where a spouse or close relative of a staff member involved in the audit has a relationship with the School.

We are not aware of any situations where a staff member of the Audit has accepted a position of employment with the School or your service provider.

Audit New Zealand

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