



# Special Character Review

**HAMILTON**  
**Seventh-day Adventist School**

*21 September 2021*





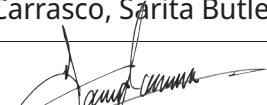
Adventist  
Education

*Educating for Eternity*



School Details	
<b>School</b>	Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School 4105
<b>School Principal</b>	Shaun Hurlow
<b>Board PM</b>	Stephen Petrie

Review Team	
<b>Team Leader</b>	Dan Carrasco/Director of Adventist Education NZPUC
<b>Team Member</b>	Sarita Butler/Associate Director of Adventist Education NZPUC

Cyclic Review Visit	
<b>Date of Visit</b>	September 21 (via Zoom)
<b>Report By</b>	Dan Carrasco, Sarita Butler
<b>Signature</b>	

## INTRODUCTION

The Special Character Review (SCR) Visiting Team focused on the ways in which Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School is developing and maintaining the Adventist Special Character as defined in the Deed of Integration Agreement. The Review Team evaluated how effectively the school is addressing the recommendations identified during the last review, and the ongoing commitment to strengthening the special character in teaching and learning, faith formation and school culture.

This report is written as a summary of the three-year Special Character Review, 2021. It has been prepared to inform and meet the needs of the following:

- The school leadership team
- The school board
- The New Zealand Adventist Education Office and Proprietor
- Any regulatory body requiring evidence of the school's special character.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCREDITATION

To be an accredited Seventh-day Adventist School in New Zealand, all schools must participate in the Special Character Review three-year cycle process and is required to demonstrate:

- a strong emphasis on the mission and ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to developing Adventist identity/special character throughout all its policies and practices
- sustained commitment to external and internal special character review
- wise stewardship of system resources for enhancing special character and discipleship

The SCR team recommends that under the arrangements with the Adventist Accrediting Agency, Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School be accredited for the full period of three years until 2024 with a mid-term visit to take place in 2023.



## OVERVIEW

The visiting team found that there is a strong commitment to the mission and ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church at all levels at Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist school. The Principal and Board fully engaged with the review process. The Principal shared a comprehensive presentation detailing progress against the three recommended actions from the 2017 including:

1. Implement the agreed school values statements.
2. Implement the mission, vision and values programme to ensure its effectiveness in making a positive impact on learning and school culture.
3. Review the 2017 school satisfaction survey and devise an action plan from the parent and student questionnaires as appropriate.

## AFFIRMATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

### A. SPECIAL CHARACTER – Teaching and Learning

*(A scripture-shaped community of learning)*

The school sees its mission as part of, and complimentary to, the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church through the intentional integration of faith and learning. There is a genuine and enthusiastic commitment to ensure the curriculum and resources at Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist school reflect a biblically shaped worldview. There are close connections between the school and local church congregations, with the principal and students regularly taking part in services and supporting programmes and initiatives. The school's vision is clearly expressed, present and visible.

***The SCR visiting team would like to affirm:***

#### 1. Encounter

- that all teachers are trained in the use of Encounter, most have accessed the updated units through the new website and are expected to use Encounter throughout the school
- that the principal has appointed a teacher with leadership responsibility for Encounter

#### 2. Local Curriculum (integration of faith and learning)

- the vision, values and guiding principles for curriculum development are clearly expressed and connected to Adventist identity and special character
- the learning map for integrated inquiry is linked to the Adventist world view
- the emphasis on social-emotional and relational competencies which are explicitly taught and implicitly modelled through attitudes and actions

#### 3. Health Curriculum

- the principal and board for thorough consultation and development of a Relationship and Sexuality Education curriculum which clearly reflects an Adventist world view.

#### 4. CR4RP

- the ongoing priority given to introducing and embedding CR4RP in every area of school life

***The SCR visiting team seeks to add value to this area of Adventist Identity:***

- ⇒ Whereas the Encounter Bible curriculum is the primary way in which the Bible is taught and Adventist fundamental beliefs shared, the principal and head of Bible/Encounter are encouraged to **review and monitor how thoroughly and effectively the Encounter curriculum is being used, to place this on the school's internal review cycle and further, to consider refresher training opportunities when appropriate.**

## **B. SPECIAL CHARACTER – Faith Formation/Discipleship**

*(A mission-focused community of learning)*

It is evident that Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School has strong spiritual leadership from the principal and teachers based on a shared understanding of the schools purpose and its potential as a centre of influence. Discipling activities show a clear commitment to the vision for Adventist education and demonstrate a deeply embedded missional culture. Faith is actively nurtured, and worship is targeted toward growing each students understanding of God and their developing faith relationship with Him.

***The SCR visiting team would like to affirm:***

### **5. Faith Formation/Discipleship**

- a clearly articulated unity of purpose among the teachers to live the gospel by serving the needs of their students and nurturing faith
- the various ways whereby the school staff team intentionally reach out beyond the classroom, into homes and churches offering opportunities to connect and grow faith in the wider community
- the focus on service projects which are responsive to expressed and observed needs

### **6. Chaplaincy Programme**

- the chaplain for his partnership role in supporting the vision and mission of the school through school worships, small group programmes and resources

### **7. Adventist Identity Induction and Orientation**

- The process of an in-home pastoral visit for enrolment applications to make connections and clarify understanding of Adventist identity.

***The SCR visiting team seeks to add value to this area of Adventist Identity:***

- ⇒ Whereas occasionally staff may be engaged who are unfamiliar with Adventist identity, the principal and chaplain are encouraged to consider developing a documented orientation process for appointees who do not meet the tagged criteria.

## **C. SPECIAL CHARACTER – SCHOOL CULTURE**

*(A values-infused community of learning)*

The principal sets and models a loving Christ-centred culture. This can be seen throughout the school in staff/student interactions and the unity and collegiality among teaching and support staff and the strong community connections. There are many things happening in the school that are creating an environment where students can thrive. The staff are focused on wellbeing and wholistic education. Social and emotional competencies and learning dispositions are emphasised as foundations for future focused learning. Discipline is consistent and redemptive by design.

***The SCR visiting team would like to affirm:***

### **8. Data Driven School Improvement**

- the school board and leadership team for their use of survey data to identify areas for improvement

### **9. Satisfaction and Engagement**

- the professional culture of support, collaboration and shared ownership
- the strong emphasis on respect, appreciation and love for every child and their unique contribution within the classroom and school environment
- the parent community for their involvement in, and commitment to, supporting the school, it's learning programmes, service activities and special character initiatives.



### ***The SCR visiting team seeks to add value to this area of Adventist Identity:***

- ⇒ whereas school survey data provides a way to track progress toward a fully embedded positive school culture, the principal, board and staff are encouraged to continue to monitor survey results, identify areas for development and implement targeted actions

## ***FUTURE DIRECTIONS***

The visiting team recognises and affirms the work of the Principal, Board and Staff toward strengthening the Adventist identity and special character of Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School and encourages them to continue to create a shared vision which promotes an authentic and deeply embedded Adventist identity.

### **The SCR visiting team endorses the School Board's self-generated recommendation to:**

- ⇒ Formulate a comprehensive Spiritual Growth/Discipleship master plan which underpins faith formation at Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist school by defining specific priorities and intentional actions and processes. Further that this be a living document, remaining current by being continually reviewed and updated.

### **For sustained special character improvement and future success, the SCR visiting team recommends that the School Board and Principal give priority to:**

- ⇒ Explicitly including Special Character priorities in the school's strategic and annual plans, aligning them to school review and improvement initiatives, mission and vision. Further, that evaluation of progress is regularly undertaken and reported to the school board by the principal.

## ***FINAL THOUGHTS***

### ***Aroha mai aroha atu***

*Love towards us. Love going out from us.*

*Aroha is the optimum growing environment in which to nurture young people who care about others and who are motivated, empowered and equipped to serve. Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist school is a community of aroha: of love received and of love returned. In this way, the vision of **Educating for Eternity** is being fulfilled.*

## ***EXPRESSION OF THANKS***

Thank you to the school board, principal and staff of Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School for your cooperation and commitment to this external Special Character review process. We trust that it has provided an opportunity for reflection, encouragement and celebration. We have welcomed the opportunity to see and hear the great things happening within the school which are contributing to the vision for Adventist education and to the mission of the church. It is our hope that we have been able to add value through affirmations, reflections and recommended actions as you seek to create a thriving Christ-shaped learning community.

May God bless your next steps on the Special Character review and improvement journey.