



04/11/2011

To the Community of Our Lady Star of the Sea School

### National Standards

The Board of Trustees of Our Lady Star of the Sea School has recently joined more than 230 schools from across New Zealand in deferring setting student achievement targets based on the National Standards for 2011. We will continue, however, to use reliable data to set high expectations for our school and all our students.

Joining this initiative means that our school is helping to send a strong message to the Government about how widespread the concern about National Standards is across the country. The Board is joining many other school communities to say that National Standards are fundamentally flawed, confusing and unworkable and that we have no confidence in them. They detract from good teaching, and our curriculum. Therefore, we will defer setting achievement targets based on National Standards until these concerns are addressed.

We do not believe the Standards are a robust tool to set expectations for either our school or for individual children. Instead, we will continue to use norm-referenced data to assess students and to form the basis for reporting to parents on the progress of their children. We will continue to base our teaching on the internationally acclaimed New Zealand Curriculum.

Under the National Standards legislation, targets are required to be set by the end of 2011. The Board is committed to reviewing this decision in 2011. We have communicated our decision to the Minister of Education and will be urging the Government to genuinely engage with schools to address our concerns. The Board welcomes your feedback on this decision - please take the time to discuss the issue with members of the Board.

Yours in Christ

Lorraine Elliott  
Board of Trustees Chairperson