

CONFIRMED ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW REPORT: SHILOH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Scope

The Chief Review Officer has a statutory duty to report on the performance of private schools throughout New Zealand.

The primary focus of this report is on the quality of education received by students and the performance of the managing body in providing education services.

This accountability review report was prepared in accordance with standard procedures approved by the Chief Review Officer.

1.2 School Information

Location	Motueka, Nelson
Type	Composite Private Primary
Roll number	36
Number of teachers: Fulltime	2
Ethnic composition	Pākehā: 32 Māori: 3 Asian: 1
Gender composition	Girls: 19 Boys: 17
Previous Office reports	Assurance Audit April 1994 Assurance Audit May 1997
On site investigation	May 2000
Date of this report	2 June 2000

2 SUMMARY

Shiloh Christian Academy is a registered school well-governed by the New Life Church Pastor and the committee of elders. The principal is an effective manager and administrator. The Academy offers a suitable curriculum. It meets the goal to “train Christian youth of every ability in the highest of Christian principles of Christian leadership, self discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity and good citizenship”.

The Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) system is the foundation for delivery of the curriculum. It has an emphasis on self instruction and individual learning and is Bible based. The academy provides appropriate learning facilities including individual offices, a science laboratory and facilities for whole school activities. Curriculum delivery includes topic studies, group work science and social studies.

Computer and technology based programmes occur regularly. They include reading programmes, keyboarding skills and word processing. Consideration could be given to including the operation of the facsimile and duplicating machines in the programme.

High quality art is well displayed. It features award winning entries from the previous South Island Convention.

Suitable staff are appointed. Teachers are supported by two monitors and a teachers’ aide. Staff are committed Christians who have the ability to convey knowledge and encourage learning and view their work as a ministry.

With purpose built premises the Academy has an extensive grassed playing area and a spacious sealed area. Its situation sets off the buildings and provides a safe environment for students.

The next review of Shiloh Christian Academy will occur in accordance with the legislative requirements and the Education Review Office’s schedule of accountability reviews.

3 QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Shiloh Christian Academy offers a “suitable” curriculum as defined in the school documents and in line with its basic philosophy. The school is “an extension of the Christian home in training young men and women in a Christian environment.” It meets its goal to “train Christian youth of every ability in the highest of Christian principles of Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and good citizenship”.

The curriculum is based on the ACE learning resources. Core subjects are taught through PACES. This style of programme:

- is self-instructional;
- is individualised;

- is bible based; and
- includes a phonetics learning to read programme.

It is broadened through activities, some of which, such as workshop technology and laboratory work, have a practical base.

All students set daily goals for themselves to complete. The achievement of these goals is monitored and recorded each day by staff. There is a friendly rapport between staff and students. Communication is frequent, open and supportive.

In the Junior School, in particular, opportunities for group work and a more practical programme are offered. This enables topic studies including science, using the local environment, social studies and creative writing to be explored. All written work is presented to a high standard. Consideration could be given to ensuring that written work is included on the timetable more regularly.

A very positive move since the previous review has been the inclusion of computer knowledge and skills into the programme. From an early stage students develop good keyboard skills. More recently this has been extended so that students are becoming familiar with word processing and other computer systems. Staff are looking at ways to further link computers with the requirements of the Paces.

Technological systems are used to support the core areas of the curriculum. Staff ensure learning is monitored and assists progress. Students should also be encouraged to use the facsimile and duplicating machine to become familiar with everyday technology.

The school appropriately provides for the inculcation of sentiments of patriotism and loyalty. Allegiance to the New Zealand flag, the bible and the government are incorporated into assemblies and aspects of the curriculum.

High quality art is well displayed throughout the environment. Much of this has been produced for competition at the South Island Convention. The number of awards that Shiloh students gained is evidence that they are achieving to standards no less than that of similar schools. Later this year the school intends to have some senior students represent it at the South Pacific Convention in Sydney. Students will benefit in many ways from this experience.

Regular field trips are undertaken as part of the privilege system. At present, the school has not documented any risk management procedures. It is timely to develop these for use when students are off site.

Most students graduate from the school with Year 11 or Year 13 certificates. The majority of these seek further opportunities for learning.

4 PERFORMANCE OF THE MANAGING BODY

4.1 Administration

Shiloh Christian Academy is a registered school governed effectively by the New Life Church Pastor and the committee of elders. Efficient financial management of the school is in place through the work of the church's finance committee. Day-to-day administration and management is delegated to the principal who implements effective and appropriate systems. The governing committee is well informed through weekly reports about the school, students and the programmes being delivered. The pastor plays an active role in the school taking devotions with senior boys and chapel with the whole school. There is mutually supportive team working together for the benefit of students.

4.2 Staffing

The school employs two registered teachers who meet criteria set by the governing body and seen as appropriate for the programme. These include:

- being committed Christians who support the church's philosophy of Christian education;
- having the ability to convey knowledge or direct students to find it;
- viewing their work as a ministry to students;
- demonstrating a willingness to serve as part of a demanding, close knit team; and
- being as one in the vision and purpose of the school.

Teachers are strongly supported by two monitors and a teacher aide who are well-versed in their duties and relate effectively with students.

4.3 Premises and Equipment

Shiloh Christian Academy is situated on a very suitable site. It is a modern purpose built school with an extensive grassed playing field and spacious asphalt surfaces. Central to the attractive, well-maintained buildings is a large appropriately equipped learning centre. Individual offices, the specialised study materials and a range of suitable furniture provide a learning environment appropriate to the methodology used. Consideration should be given to reviewing the reference books and developing and implementing an upgrading plan. Other learning spaces, including a laboratory, are available for additional activities including assemblies, science, technology studies and work in the arts. Adequate storage for the high quality equipment will be enhanced when the current additions are completed.

Regular termly hazard inspections ensure the property and buildings remain safe for students, staff and visitors. Evacuation drills are held and recorded. The school provides a safe environment for students.

5 CONCLUSION

Students who attend Shiloh Christian Academy receive an education that focuses on living according to Christian principles. It provides a sound foundation for life long learning, emphasising English and mathematics as core subjects. Programmes in science, technology, the arts, physical education and social studies support these.

A mutually supportive team, led by registered teachers committed to the ACE system, provides close support to, and monitoring of, students. Others with expertise in specialised areas provide additional tuition.

The next review of Shiloh Christian Academy will occur in accordance with the legislative requirements and the Education Review Office's schedule of accountability reviews.

SIGNED

Lane Mohi
Area Manager
for Chief Review Officer

2 June 2000

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June 2000



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