New Zealand Teachers Council Requirements –‘Good Character and Fit to be a Teacher’ Policy (November 2007)

Student teachers should be aware that the New Zealand Teachers Council takes into account the following matters when deciding whether a teacher applicant is of good character and fit to be a teacher. The applicant must:
(a) have a police vet satisfactory to the Council;
(b) display respect for persons, for cultural and social values of Aotearoa New Zealand, for the law and for the views of others;
(c) uphold the public and professional reputation of teachers;
(d) promote the safety of learners within his or her care;
(e) be reliable and trustworthy in carrying out duties;
(f) be mentally and physically fit to carry out the teaching role safely and satisfactorily (refer: http://www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz/required/goodcharacter2007.pdf).

Those fit to teach must, therefore, possess a range of personal qualities - some of which are listed below. It will be accepted that all who satisfactorily graduate have the required qualities. A person who is ‘Fit to be a Teacher’ should have the personal qualities to operate in four domains: in the teaching/learningspace (e.g. classroom), in the learning centre (e.g. school, kohanga reo), in the community, and in the teaching profession. In each domain, a teacher will interact with learners (students), parents/whanau/caregivers, employers, and colleagues, and should at all times maintain high standards of:

Trustworthiness, to
• work independently and without supervision
• meet any reasonable requirements for the protection and safety of others
• preserve confidences

Honesty, to
• demonstrate integrity to all contacts
• respect persons and property
• report clearly and truthfully

Reliability, to
• take on responsibilities with due regard for time and place
• meet the expectations of caregivers and the learning centre when supervising learners
• accept, plan and execute a variety of tasks and professional responsibilities

Sensitivity and compassion, to
• respect other cultural and social values
• recognise and respect others as individuals
• care for the learning of those who are disadvantaged and those with learning difficulties
• demonstrate firmness when necessary

Respect for others, to
• demonstrate respect for the law
• adopt accepted codes of language, dress and demeanour
• accept and carry out collegial and employer decisions
• respect the views of others

Imagination, enthusiasm and dedication, to
• support and inspire others in their work
• generate excitement and satisfaction in learning
• engage in co-curricular tasks which expand learning opportunities
• show respect for learning and inspire a love of learning

Communication, to
• communicate easily and lucidly in the English or Māori official languages of New Zealand
• exercise discretion
• give and receive constructive criticism
• seek advice when needed

Physical and mental health, to
• carry out duties safely and satisfactorily
• show emotional balance and maturity
• display warmth and humour

Notwithstanding the above qualities, a person could be considered unfit to be a teacher if evidence was provided that as a teacher he or she had behaved in a way that was seriously unethical, irresponsible or unprofessional.