



Australian Democratic Principles

This document clearly outlines the teaching of 'Civics and Citizenship.'

Rationale

The VRQA Minimum Standards for School Registration includes a standard concerning the school's adherence to Australian democratic principles and practice. This standard is as follows:

The programs of, and teaching in, a school must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- *elected Government;*
- *the rule of law;*
- *equal rights for all before the law;*
- *freedom of religion;*
- *freedom of speech and association;*
- *the values of openness and tolerance.*

Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to affirm the school's adherence to the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

Statement

Australian society is defined, among other aspects, by a belief in elected Government; by a commitment to the rule of law, to equal rights for all before the law; and by a belief in freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of association. Our society is also tolerant of a range of religious, political, social and cultural beliefs and values in the context of the fundamental principle of our democracy.

The 'Education and Reform Act 2006' requires all education providers to operate in a manner consistent with this set of Australian democratic principles.

In accordance with the Act we will deliver our programs and teaching in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy. This includes a commitment to:

- Elected government
- The rule of law
- Equal rights for all before the law
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech and association
- The values of openness and tolerance

The following processes and resources assist our school to support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy in our programs and teaching.

The Catholic School Review processes require our school to present a published vision and mission statement based on the mission or purpose of a Catholic school. By the very nature of Catholic schools, which seek to develop the whole person and to assist students to become active members of the

Catholic Church and contributors to the common good of society, these statements acknowledge Australian democratic values.

Our school displays a poster of democratic values as required by the Australian Government.

The Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum, which are required to be taught in all Catholic schools, provide students with knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and practise what it means to be a citizen in a democracy. All students are required to work through the two dimensions of the Civics and Citizen domain; Civic Knowledge and Understanding, and Community Engagement.

Resources

The “Values for Australian Schooling” poster displayed below

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four year review cycle or as required.

Ratification

School Advisory Board Chair Danielle Gray

Signed

Date.....

1.1 Displayed in the c.corridor near the staffroom.



VALUES FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLING

Care and Compassion

Care for self and others

Doing Your Best

Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence

Fair Go

Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society

Freedom

Enjoy all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control, and stand up for the rights of others

Honesty and Trustworthiness

Be honest, sincere and seek the truth

Integrity

Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, ensure consistency between words and deeds

Respect

Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person's point of view

Responsibility

Be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment

Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion

Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity within a democratic society, being included and including others

CHARACTER IS DESTINY

— George Eliot

