



# SACRED HEART

## Australian Democratic Principles

### **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 principles 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 process requires 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 Sacred Heart Primary school



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## Statement

### **Statement affirming and outlining Sacred Hearts commitment to teaching our children what it means to be an Australian citizen.**

At Sacred Heart we are committed to creating an environment which supports the development of effective Australian citizens who have an awareness of the values and systems which underpin our democracy.

We strive to ensure that our children develop the following:

An understanding of, and commitment to, Australia's democratic system of government, law and civic life.

The capacity to clarify and critically examine values and principles which underpin Australia's democracy and the ways in which these contribute to a fair and just society and a sustainable future.

The knowledge, skills and values that support active citizenship and the capacity to act as informed and responsible citizens.

An appreciation of the local, state, national and global rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic life.

An appreciation of the experiences and heritage of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their influence on Australian civic identity and society.

An appreciation of the uniqueness and diversity of Australia as a multicultural society and a commitment to supporting intercultural understandings within the context of Australian democracy.

An understanding of the ways in which citizens and governments contribute to environmental sustainability in local and global contexts and a commitment to adopting values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future. An appreciation of the influence of media, information and communication technologies on the views and actions of citizens and governments

An understanding of historical perspectives on Australia's development as a democratic nation.

An understanding of the ways in which governance structures from other countries are similar to or different from democracy in Australia.

The ability to sing the national anthem.

An appreciation of and respect for the Australian flag and the symbolism it represents. 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 is required to be taught in all Catholic schools, provides students with knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and practice what it means to be a citizen in a democracy. All students are required to be exposed to the two dimensions of the Civics and Citizenship domain; Civic Knowledge and Understanding, and Community Engagement.

As part of our weekly whole school assembly our entire community stands proudly before the raised Australian flag and joins in the singing of the national anthem. The flag then hangs proudly from the school flagpole for the remainder of the week.

Resources The "Values for Australian Schooling" poster

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