



# St Paul's Primary School

## Australian Democratic Principles & Values for Australian Schooling

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### **Rationale**

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

This standard reads 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 & freedom of association.

Our society is also tolerant of a range of religious, political, social & 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, St. Paul's Primary School will deliver our programs and teaching, in a manner that supports and promotes the principles & 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 & 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 values as displayed are inclusive of:

- 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

The Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum, which is required to be taught in all Catholic schools, provides students with knowledge, skills & 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, namely, *Civic Knowledge and Understanding* and *Community Engagement*.

**Resources**

The 'Values for Australian Schooling' poster

**Evaluation**

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

**Written:** 2017

**Ratified:** 2018

**Reviewed:**