



Australian Democratic Values Policy

Rationale:

St Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to honouring and adhering to Australian democratic principles and practice.

This commitment is as follows the programs of, and teaching in, our school 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.

Aims:

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

Implementation:

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.

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

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dimensions of the Civics and Citizen domain; Civic Knowledge and Understanding, and Community Engagement.

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



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 that underpin Australia's democracy and the ways in which these contribute to a fair and just society and a sustainable future. These values/principles include – Care and Compassion, Doing Your Best, A Fair Go, Freedom, Honesty and Trustworthiness, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion.
- 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 to 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.

Evaluation:

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