

### Democratic Principles

At St. Mary's School we recognise that the school plays a vital role in advancing democratic ideals and principles. For democracy to continue to thrive, children must be taught democratic ideals and principles and to value its way of life. St. Mary's School will explicitly and implicitly support and promote the principles of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

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

Through our curricular and extracurricular programs, St. Mary's School will prepare our children to become citizens who will preserve and shape democracy in the future. Democratic values will be taught explicitly in the curriculum and implicitly in the child's experience of the school, from classroom practice, and from what is taught to how it is taught.

### Purpose

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

### **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 is required to be taught in all Catholic schools, provides 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

## Reporting

The Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Board will ensure schools have published this Democratic Principles Statement through the Annual Report to the School Community and regular school review processes (at least once every four years).