



SCHOOL GOVERNANCE: DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Source of Obligation

The Victorian Registration Standards (sch 4 cl 1 and sch 8 cl 1) (CECV Guidelines ref 1.1 and 7.1) require that the programs of, and teaching at the School must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

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

As stated in the ETR Regs, the requirements of the commitment above are not intended to affect the rights accorded to, or the compliance with any obligation imposed on, the School under the enactment of the State or of the Commonwealth.

Statement of Democratic Principles

St Joseph's is committed to the principles of a liberal democracy.

We believe in an accountable, democratically elected government.

We respect and observe the rule of law, and believe that no person is above the law.

We believe in equal rights for all before the law, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender or other attributes.

We believe not only in the freedom of religion, but also the need to practise tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs.

We believe in the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom.

We believe in the values of openness and tolerance, and value and respect all members of the School community regardless of background.

Explanation of How the School Communicates the Statement

This Statement of Democratic Principles is communicated to staff, students, parents and guardians and the School community. This Statement is published:

- in the staff policy portal
- in the Parent Information Handbook
- in the St Joseph's Annual Report
- on the St Joseph's website

In addition:

A poster of democratic values is displayed at St Joseph's school foyer.

Curriculum documents show that all students at the School undertake studies in the three strands of the Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

CECV Role

The CECV will coordinate the application for senior secondary with the VCAA and VRQA as required.

Implementation

St Joseph's has set up a series of compliance tasks in CompliSpace Assurance, to ensure that key obligations under the Victorian Registration Standards and CECV Guidelines are managed effectively.