

# Democratic Principles Statement



## VALUES FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLING

### 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

CHARACTER IS DESTINY

— George Elliot

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, St Francis of Assisi Primary School delivers curriculum programs and learning 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

### **Promotion and Communication of the Democratic Principles**

St Francis of Assisi Primary School promotes and communicates the principles and practice of Australian democracy through the following strategies:

1. The Identity Statement and Vision of the school express its Catholic orientation in the midst of diversity across all aspects of life. The school shares in the mission of the Catholic Church. Similarly, the inspirational nature of the Identity Statement and Vision informs and invites all members of the school community into relationships in the life-giving work of the school. In dialogue, we learn from each other and flourish together. The Identity and Vision Statements are developed through dialogue that is representative of the school community.

2. The curriculum program is based on the Victorian Curriculum F-10 (which incorporates the requirements of the Australian Curriculum) and Source of Life develops in students:

- a lifelong sense of belonging to, and engagement with, civic life as an active and informed citizen in the context of Australia as a secular democratic nation with a dynamic, multicultural and multi-faith society of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the values, principles, institutions and practices of Australia's system of democratic government and law, and the role of the citizen in Australian government and society
- knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the values, principles, institutions and practice of Australia's system of democratic government and law, and the role of the citizen in Australian government and society
- skills necessary to investigate contemporary civics and citizenship issues, and foster responsible participation in Australia's democracy
- knowledge, skills and capacities and dispositions to participate in the civic life of their nation at a local, regional and global level (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, 2016).

3. The school's Australian Democratic Principles Statement and Identity and Vision Statements are available on the school website.

4. As part of the induction process, staff are made aware of the integration of the democratic principles into the curriculum and the life of the school.

5. Parents/guardians and staff are provided with a handbook that outlines the curriculum and learning and teaching for each year level.

Developed and Ratified: 2023 Next Review:2026