

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, MILDURA



Policy Number:	COLLEGE 25
Policy Name:	Australian Democratic Principles Policy
Contact Officer:	Principal
Date Approved by Executive:	June 2, 2021
Date of Next Review:	June 2024
Related Policies:	Mercy Code of Conduct Parent (Adult) Code of Conduct Child Safe Policy Pastoral Care Policy Vision and Mission Statements

PREAMBLE

God is at the centre of our College...Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospel. We encourage every student to grow in the fullness of life and realise their potential through the bread we break at school, the bread of relationships and the bread of conversation. Let us engage the heart and bring faith to life and life to faith (Thomas Groome).

LEGISLATION

This policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in *Ministerial Order No. 870*. This policy applies to St Joseph's College staff, including employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy.

1. PURPOSE

1.1 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.

1.2 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 Joseph's College 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.

2. PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

2.1 St Joseph's College promotes and communicates the principles and practice of Australian democracy by the following strategies:

2.1.1 The Vision and Mission of the college expresses its Catholic orientation in the midst of diversity across all aspects of life. The college shares in the mission of the Catholic Church and its Vision and Mission expresses this

relationship. Similarly, the inspirational nature of the Vision and Mission informs and invites all members of the college community into relationship in the life-giving work of the college. In dialogue, we learn from each other and flourish together. The Vision and Mission Statements are developed through dialogue that is representative of the college community.

2.1.2 The curriculum program is based on the *Victorian Curriculum F-10* (which incorporates the requirements of the Australian Curriculum) and *Awakenings* (CEOB) and 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;
- 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;
- 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).

2.1.3 The college's *Australian Democratic Principles Policy* and *Vision and Mission Statements* are available on the college website.

2.1.4 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 college.

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