



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

The Victorian Registration Standards (VRQA) (sch 4 cl 1 and sch 8 cl 1) (CECV Guidelines ref 1.1 and 8.1) require that the programs of and teaching at St Mary's College Melbourne must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

Democratic Principles include 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

St Mary's College 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 practice tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs.
- We believe in the development of the whole person and are committed to assisting students to become active members of the Catholic Church and contributors to the common good of society.
- 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.