

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

Holy Rosary 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 student handbook

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- in the Holy Rosary prospectus
 - in the Holy Rosary annual report
 - on the Holy Rosary website
 - in the Staff Handbook

In addition:

A poster of democratic values is displayed at in classrooms.

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 any application for senior secondary with the VCAA and VRQA as required.

Implementation

Holy Rosary 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.

Students are explicitly taught the democratic principles through the Civics and Citizenship curriculum.

The Democratic Principles link with the school vision statement that highlights that we are an inclusive and welcoming community, which accommodates and celebrates diversity.

Evaluation & Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of Holy Rosary's overall cyclical review process and should be read in conjunction with the Holy Rosary Child Safe policies.

This policy was ratified by the Holy Rosary Governing Authority in 2020.