



## **School Governance (Democratic Principles)**

### **Source of Obligation**

The Victorian Registration Standards (sch 2 cl 1 and sch 7 cl 2) (CECV Guidelines ref 1.1) require that the programs of, and teaching at St John's Regional College must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

These 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; and
- the values of openness and tolerance.

As stated in the 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 college under the enactment of the State or of the Commonwealth.

### **Statement of Democratic Principles**

St John's Regional 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 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 College 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;
- on the St John's Regional College website;

In addition:

- A poster of democratic values is displayed at \*insert location at school/college\*.
- Curriculum documents show that all students at St John's Regional College undertake studies in the three strands of the Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

**Ratified by Advisory Board on 19 February 2019**