



Catholic Regional College Sydenham

Policy: 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 College must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including 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 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 College under the enactment of the State or of the Commonwealth.

Statement of Democratic Principles

Catholic Regional College Sydenham 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 College community regardless of background.



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Explanation of How the College Communicates the Statement

This Statement of Democratic Principles is communicated to staff, students, parents and guardians and the College community. This Statement is published:

- in the **staff policy portal – Complispace;**
- in the **student handbook;**
- in the **Catholic Regional College Sydenham prospectus;**
- in the **Catholic Regional College Sydenham annual report;**
- on the **Catholic Regional College Sydenham website;**

In addition:

- A **poster of democratic values** is displayed at Front Reception.



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Managed by: Principal and Deputy Principal - Staffing	Contact Persons: Principal, Deputy Principal – Staffing, Deputy Principal – Students, Director of Community Engagement and Principal’s PA	Approved by: Principal, Deputy Principal - Staffing
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