



DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES STATEMENT

Salesian College Sunbury is an inclusive Catholic Faith Community in the spirit of St John Bosco.

- We are a welcoming COMMUNITY that fosters an atmosphere of joy and optimism.
- We strive for engagement in LEARNING for which we are collectively responsible.
- We promote the pursuit of EXCELLENCE in all aspects of life.
- We are inspired by our FAITH to serve others and develop as resilient, thoughtful and caring citizens of the world.

Central to these values is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Registration Standards (sch 4 cl 1 and sch 8 cl 1) require that the programs of, and teaching at Salesian College Sunbury (the College) must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy. These include 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 Regulations, 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.

OUR STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Salesian College Sunbury will prepare students to become citizens who will preserve and shape democracy in the future through our curricular and extracurricular programs. Democratic values will be taught explicitly in the curriculum and implicitly through each student's experience of the school, in educational programs, and from what is taught, and how it is taught.

Specifically, the College:

- is committed to the principles of a liberal democracy.
- believes in an accountable, democratically elected government.
- respects and observes the rule of law, and believes that no person is above the law.
- believes in equal rights for all before the law, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender or other attributes.
- believes not only in the freedom of religion, but also the need to practice tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs.
- believes in the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledges that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom.
- believe in the values of openness and tolerance, and values and respects all members of the College community regardless of background.

REPORTING AND MONITORING

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
- on Schoolbox
- on the Salesian College website

In addition:

- A poster of democratic values is displayed at Student Hub
- Curriculum documents show that all students at the College undertake studies in the three strands of the Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

The College Board will monitor the publication of this Democratic Principles Statement through the Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC) Principal Attestation and regular school compliance review processes (at least once every five years).

Implementation

Salesian College has set up a series of compliance tasks to ensure that key obligations under the Victorian Registration Standards are managed effectively.

POLICY INFORMATION

Responsible director	Principal
Policy owner	College Executive
Approving authority	College Executive
Assigned board committee	Governance
Approval date	26/03/2026
Next Review date	26/03/2028
Publication	Schoolbox; Website

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned framework	MS1-Governance; CA1-Governance
Superseded versions	2016 v1, 2021 v1.2, 2023 v1.3