



## Vermont Secondary College

*'Lift up thine eyes'*

# VSC Democratic Principles – college statement

@ 05 March 2020

### Statement

Vermont Secondary College (VSC) adheres to the Democratic Principles as required by the VRQA for School Registration.

Australian society is defined, among other aspects, by a belief in elected Government; by a commitment to the rule of law; to equal rights for all before the law; and by a belief in freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of association. Our society is also tolerant of a range of religious, political, social and cultural beliefs and values in context of the fundamental principle of our democracy.

The 'Education and Reform Act 2006' requires all education providers to operate in a manner consistent with this set of Australian democratic principles.

In accordance with the Act, we will deliver our programs and teaching in a manner that supports and promotes these principles and practice of Australian democracy. This includes 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.

We acknowledge that all persons are entitled to be treated equally before the law and we endeavour to treat all members of our community with equity and fairness.

We are committed to working with integrity within our community and we are committed to the social value of respect for all fellow Australians irrespective of differences.

### Processes

The college's VSC Statement of Values & Philosophy clearly describes our college's vision and mission. The following processes and resources assist our school to support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy in our programs and teaching:

Our college has a clear mission statement that encompasses our values of integrity, community, creativity, respect and excellence. Our code of conduct and staff handbook communicate to our teachers, students, staff and parents the expectations of the school in upholding not only these values but the fundamental democratic principles that underpin our society.

Our college displays a poster of democratic values as required by the Australian Government. We also display the three flags of our nation – Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island. We acknowledge and pay our respects to our Indigenous community at community gatherings within our school.

The curriculum within our college provide students with knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and practise what it means to be a citizen in a democracy. This includes the Humanities / Commerce subjects in both the Junior and Senior Schools, for example the Year 9 Commerce &

Civics subject. We also use formal assemblies to support students to develop an awareness of the history of our country, for example the annual Anzac sub-school assemblies, and their continuing role in upholding the democratic values that shape our nation.

**Evaluation:** This policy will be reviewed bi-annually as part of the school renewal process.

<b>Date Implemented</b>	March 2020
<b>Author</b>	Harry Ruff – Assistant Principal
<b>Approved By</b>	School Council
<b>Approval Authority (Signature &amp; Date)</b>	School Council President Dr Steve Siems 
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	March 2020
<b>Responsible for Review</b>	Harry Ruff - Assistant Principal
<b>Review Date</b>	Bi-annually
<b>References</b>	Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide