



Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Australian Democratic Values Statement

Rationale:

At Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School we are committed to creating an environment which supports the development of effective Australian citizens, whom have an awareness of the values and systems that underpin our democracy.

Aims:

The programs of Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School and the teaching of these programs support and promote:

- the principles and practice of Australian democracy;
- the 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.

Implementation

At Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School we:

- live out the Mission and Vision of Catholic schools as set out by 2015-2019 Strategic Plan for Catholic Education through the values of Integrity, Equity and Justice, Respect and Excellence;
- through our Inquiry approach and Integrated Curriculum, develop and implement units of work in line with the Victorian Curriculum that focus on Civics and Citizenship and Community engagement. These units of work assist students to develop and extend the knowledge, skills and values that support active citizenship and the capacity to act as informed and responsible citizens;
- through our programs, help students develop an appreciation of the experiences and heritage of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their influence on Australian civic identity and society;
- through our programs assist students to develop appreciation of the uniqueness and diversity of Australia as a multicultural society and a commitment to supporting intercultural understandings within the context of Australian democracy;
- include the acknowledgement to country in our weekly school newsletter and morning assembly;
- raise the Australian Flag at Monday morning assembly each week whilst singing the Australian National Anthem and fly the flag daily;
- live out our school vision of being welcoming and encouraging of all;
- aim to foster positive relationships of thanks, reciprocal trust, respect, honesty and communication between the Parish Priest, staff, children, parents and the wider community;
- display the school Vision statement in the front foyer, provide a copy to staff in their staff handbook each year, discuss our school Vision with parents and provide them with a copy as part of the Parent Handbook on enrolment to Our Lady Help of Christians and clearly display it on our school website;
- through our policies, programs, practices, newsletters and assemblies communicate the values of being an active citizen of Australia.