

Affirmation of Australian Citizenship

At St Mary's School we are committed to creating an environment which supports the development of Australian citizens who have an awareness of the values and systems which underpin our democracy.

Through our curriculum and Learning and Teaching programs, we strive to ensure that our children develop:

- An understanding of, and commitment to, Australia's democratic system of government, law and civic life
- The capacity to clarify and critically examine values and principles that underpin Australia's democracy and the ways in which these contribute to a fair and just society and a sustainable future
- The knowledge, skills and values that support active citizenship and the capacity to act as informed and responsible citizens
- An appreciation of the local, state, national, regional and global rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic life
- 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
- An 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
- An understanding of the ways in which citizens and governments contribute to environmental sustainability in local to global contexts and a commitment to adopting values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future
- An appreciation of the influence of media and information and communication technologies on the views and actions of citizens and governments
- An understanding of historical perspectives on Australia's development as a democratic nation
- An understanding of the ways in which governance structures from other countries are similar to, or differ from, democracy in Australia.

Through striving to live out our RICH Values of 'Respect', 'Inclusion', 'Compassion' and 'Honesty', we are committed to ensuring that our school culture deepens an understanding of Australian values. St Mary's school actively promotes and teaches the following values for Australian schooling:

Respect

- Treating others with consideration and regard, respecting another person's point of view
- Freedom for all to enjoy the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship, free from unnecessary interference or control
- Standing up for and considering the rights of others
- Pursuing and protecting the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.

Inclusion

- Understanding, celebrating and accepting diversity within a democratic society
- Being included and including others.

Compassion

- Care and compassion for self and others.
- Being empathetic to the perspectives and needs of others

Honesty

- Being honest, sincere and seeking the truth
- Doing your best in seeking to accomplish something worthy and admirable, trying hard, pursuing excellence
- Acting with integrity, with consistency between words and deeds
- Being responsible and accountable for one's actions, with a commitment to resolving conflict and differences restoratively, peacefully and respectfully
- Contributing to and caring for the school, local and global community and environment

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