



# St Bernard's College

Achieving Excellence By Learning And Doing

## Australian Democratic Principles

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 the 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, St Bernard's College is committed to delivering programs and teaching in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy. This includes a commitment 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;
- We believe in the freedom of religion and the need to practice and tolerance and understanding of other's beliefs;
- We believe in the freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom; and
- We believe the values of openness and tolerance and value and respect all members of the school community regardless of background.