



School Governance Standards

Saint Ignatius College Geelong supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

Support for Democratic Principles

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* requires all education providers to operate in a manner consistent with this set of Australian democratic principles. The Act requires that all providers of education, both government and non-government owned, deliver their programs and teaching in a manner that supports and promotes the 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.

The Australian democratic principles, enshrined in the Act, will not constrain the operation of religious schools, nor will any other provision in the Act, subject to schools complying with minimum education standards.

Faith-based schools have a well established place in Victorian education and these schools will continue to be registered by the appropriate statutory authority.

Reference: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/reviewleg_democracy.htm

Values for Australian Schooling

Nine Values for Australian Schooling have emerged from Australian school communities and from the *National Goals for Schooling in Australia in the Twenty-First Century*. They are presented below in alphabetical order and not in any rank order of importance.

Nine Values for Australian Schooling

1. **Care and Compassion.** Care for self and others.
2. **Doing Your Best.** Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence.
3. **Fair Go.** Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.
4. **Freedom.** Enjoy all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control, and stand up for the rights of others.
5. **Honesty and Trustworthiness.** Be honest, sincere and seek the truth.
6. **Integrity.** Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, ensure consistency between words and deeds.



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7. **Respect.** Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person's point of view.
8. **Responsibility.** Be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment.
9. **Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion.** Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity within a democratic society, being included and including others.

From *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2005, page 4

National Safe Schools Framework

All students should be able to learn and develop in safe and supportive environments. The Australian Government takes issues of bullying seriously and believes student wellbeing and safety are essential for academic development.

As part of a national approach to supporting schools to build safe school communities, the Australian Government has worked with all state and territory Governments to revise the National Safe Schools Framework.

The Framework provides Australian schools with a vision and a set of guiding principles that assist school communities to take a proactive whole-school approach to developing effective student safety and wellbeing policies. This vision includes creating learning environments which are free from bullying, harassment, aggression and violence.

The Framework places an emphasis on student wellbeing and child protection and includes relevant national and jurisdictional legislation and Government policy. The Framework also highlights and responds to the emergence of technologies that have enabled new forms of bullying to develop.

The Framework was endorsed by all ministers for education through the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) in December 2010.

The Framework was officially launched by the Hon Peter Garrett, MP, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth on the 18 March 2011 to coincide with the inaugural National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

Vision

The National Safe Schools Framework is based on the following overarching vision:

All Australian schools are safe, supportive and respectful teaching and learning communities that promote student wellbeing.

Guiding Principles

The vision is underpinned by the following guiding principles that represent fundamental beliefs about safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing as a pre-requisite for effective learning in all school settings.



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Australian schools:

- affirm the rights of all members of the school community to feel safe and be safe at school
- acknowledge that being safe and supported at school is essential for student wellbeing and effective learning
- accept responsibility for developing and sustaining safe and supportive learning and teaching communities that also fulfill the school's child protection responsibilities
- encourage the active participation of all school community members in developing and maintaining a safe school community where diversity is valued
- actively support young people to develop understanding and skills to keep themselves and others safe
- commit to developing a safe school community through a whole-school and evidence-based approach

Reference:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NationalSafeSchools/Pages/nationalsafeschoolsframework.aspx#vision>