

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

GRM 1.5.4

Date Approved:	15/12/2022
Date Effective:	15/12/2022
Scheduled Review Date:	15/12/2025
Policy Category:	Governance and Risk Management
Policy Owner:	Board Chairperson

1. Context

The Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (sch 4 cl 1 and sch 8 cl 1) require that the programs of, and teaching at SEDA College (Victoria) must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government; and
- the rule of law; and
- equal rights for all before the law; and
- freedom of religion; and
- freedom of speech and association; and
- the values of openness and tolerance.

Nothing in this clause is intended to affect the rights accorded to, or the compliance with any obligation imposed on, a registered school under a law of the State or of the Commonwealth.

2. Definitions

A reference or term included in this statement is defined as follows;

"SEDA College" or "the College" refers to SEDA College (Victoria).

3. Application

The College provides a curriculum and program approach that adheres to the principles by which Australian society is defined, including: a belief in elected Government; a commitment to the rule of law, to equal rights for all before the law; a belief in freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of association, and embracing values of openness and tolerance.

The College provides education and training programs in line with the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 and other relevant legislation which requires all education providers to operate in a manner consistent with this set of Australian democratic principles.

4. Statement of Policy

The College is committed 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, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender or other attributes.
- We believe not only in the freedom of religion, but also the need to practise tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs.
- We believe in the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom.
- We believe in the values of openness and tolerance, and value and respect all members of the College community regardless of background.

5. Procedures

The policies and procedures of the College provide all guidelines for our stakeholders and have been written to be used in conjunction with government Guidelines, where relevant.

This Statement of Democratic Principles is communicated to staff, students, parents and guardians and the College community. This Statement is published:

- on the College intranet for staff; and
- on the College website.

6. Referenced Documents

This Statement of Democratic Principles is to be read with reference to the following:

- VRQA Guidelines to the Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration (for new and existing schools effective from 1 July 2022)
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006
- Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017

7. Policy History

Version	Policy Owner	Approval Date	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
V1	Board Chairperson	11/11/16	11/11/16	
V2	Board Chairperson	23/10/18	23/10/18	Remove typographical error Remove reference to Handbooks
V3	Board Chairperson	12/11/20	12/11/20	No changes made
V4	Board Chairperson	01/07/2022	01/07/2022	Update to new template and letterhead. Change wording to reference the relevant legislation.
V4	Board Chairperson	15/12/2022	15/12/2022	Reviewed, no changes made.