

STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

In the spirit of Romans 13, Ballarat Christian College acknowledges with thankfulness to God, that the school is able to prosper under the principles and practices of a democratic nation and the policy frameworks of both its Federal and State Governments.

We acknowledge with gratitude, yet without taking it for granted, that we, together with all Australian citizens, have the freedom to pursue our religious beliefs and to live out of a religious worldview that is founded upon those beliefs.

We honour and commit to the fundamental freedoms of speech and association for all Australians so long as those freedoms are not used to subvert the rule of law.

We accept the right of our elected Governments and their officers to prescribe certain conditions pertaining to the programs and teaching practices of schools, provided that those conditions do not diminish or remove our right to teach in a manner consistent with our declared religious beliefs around which our school operates.

The College acknowledges that all persons are entitled to be treated equally before the law and, we endeavour to treat the members of our community at all times with equity and fairness.

While not in any way compromising the integrity of our own beliefs and values, we are committed to living in peace with our fellow Australians irrespective of differences in faith, ethnicity or culture. We are committed to the social value of respect for persons which derives from our reverence for Christ whose sacrifice was not limited but, instead, available for all those who would come to Him in trust and faith.

In unashamedly declaring that the College is committed to an education that references its programs and policies to a Christian worldview, the College is open to families who seek an education based on Christian principles and standards.

Finally, the College is open to the normal processes of accountability required by Governments and commits to ethical and transparent practices in respect of each of those requirements.

COMMUNICATION TO STAFF

This statement is available on the College's Staff Portal (Teacher Kiosk). Staff are reminded annually of the implications of the statement for staff practices and attitudes.

COMMUNICATION TO STUDENTS

This statement is available on the College's Student Portal (Student Café). Students are reminded from time to time in assemblies of the implications of the statement for them.

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

This statement is available on the College's website and Parent Portal (Parent Lounge).

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.