

St Mary's Primary School is a Catholic school that operates under the governance of the Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) with children from Foundation to Year Six. Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) is the company established by Bishop Paul Bird to become the governing body for schools in the Ballarat Diocese. This includes St Mary's Primary School, Clarkes Hill.



PRINCIPAL: Ms. Clare Scanlon

Statement of Commitment to Democratic Principles

St Mary's is committed to creating an environment which supports the development of Australian citizens who have an awareness of the values and systems which scaffold our democracy.

We strive to ensure that our students develop;

- An understanding of, and commitment to, Australia's democratic system of government, law and civic life.
- The capacity to examine values and principles that underpin Australia's democracy and the ways in which these contribute to a fair and just society.
- The knowledge, skills and values to act as informed and responsible citizens.
- An appreciation of the local, state, national 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 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 governance structures from other countries are similar to, or differ from, democracy in Australia.

We are committed to ensuring that our school culture deepens an understanding of Australian values. Our work in teaching to the Australian Curriculum demonstrates the manner in which we develop this in our school and our Handbooks, our newsletters and our Prospectus all demonstrate our commitment to putting this statement into practice and to promoting those values in the community.

Our school is committed to an education that references its programs and policies to a Christian worldview and is open to families of any faith who are agreeable for their children to have an education based on Christian beliefs, principles and standards.

St Mary's Primary School actively promotes and teaches the following values for Australian schooling:

- Care and compassion in caring for self and others
- Doing your best in seeking to accomplish something worthy and admirable, persevering, and pursuing excellence.
- Giving a fair go – pursuing and protecting the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.

Finally, the school 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.