



## Democratic Principles

Harkaway Hills College is committed to creating an environment which promotes adherence to the principles and practice of Australian democracy. This includes a commitment to:

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

The school intends to demonstrate its respect for Australian democracy by proudly flying the Australian flag on the school premises. In November 2016, the local member of parliament, Hon Luke Donnellan, presented the flag to the school community, and along with a representative from the local council, Cr Rosalie Crestani, addressed the school community at the official College opening and flag raising ceremony.

Through its curriculum and human virtues program, the school and its teachers encourage the student body to appreciate fully and to exercise responsibly their rights and obligations as citizens (both those that they have even as children, and those that will accrue to them in their majority), and to engage and participate in the country's democracy and governance. Developing love for neighbour and respect for freedom and diversity is also a central part of the human virtues program.

Families who enrol their children in the school choose to do so because the values upheld and taught by the school, including the commitments listed above, are the same as those upheld in their homes. The expectation of this close connection and mutual reinforcement is communicated to and understood by parents right from the start of their relationship with the school.

All staff employed by the school understand and embody the approach taken by the school in all matters, including those described above.