

Humanities & Social Sciences

1.0 Rationale

Humanities involves the study of human societies and environments, people and their cultures in the past and the present. Humanities provides a framework for developing in students the key ideas and concepts that enable them to understand the way in which people and societies have organised their world under particular conditions and made meaning of it. The Humanities and Social Sciences encourage use of research skills and inquiry processes.

2.0 Goals

- For students to develop understanding of how and why groups of people have settled where they have, organised their societies, developed means of generating and distributing wealth, developed codes, laws and belief systems, related to other groups of people and interacted with their physical environment.
- For students to learn to plan an investigation, ask key questions and analyse a range of data and sources including artifacts, photographs, maps, stories, special events, interviews, site visits and electronic media, forming conclusions supported by evidence and presenting and evaluating information in a variety of ways.
- For students to develop an understanding of self in relation to their History and place in the world. It enables them to develop an understanding of the past and present experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their identity and the continuing value of their culture. It also helps students to appreciate Australia's distinctive path of social, economic and political development, its position in the Asia-Pacific region, and its global interrelationships.
- Students will develop Geographical skills such as exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world, using the concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change.
- Students will develop Historical skills such as questioning and investigating artifacts and evidence. They will look at the impact of historical events and people that have helped to shape Australia as it is today.
- From Year 3 students will be introduced to Civics and Citizenship; It explores an understanding of democracy as rule by the people through learning about decision making within communities. Students consider the purpose of creating rules for groups and how individuals participate in their community.
- From Year 5 students will be introduced to Business and Economics, giving students the opportunity to develop their understanding of economics and business concepts by exploring the importance of decision making in everyday life

3.0 Implementation

- Teams of teachers plan units of work for each term in their levels, using an integrated inquiry approach where possible, developing a range of activities to

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allow students to be engaged in the topic, exploring concepts, elaborating on their thoughts and ideas as well as being able to evaluate their work.

- The History curriculum generally takes a world history approach within which the history of Australia is taught. As students move through school the focus moves from personal history (who am I?) through to global history (How did WWII shape the population of Australia?)
- The Geography curriculum integrates knowledge from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to build a holistic understanding of the world. Again, the focus moves from self to a global viewpoint as students transition through school.

4.0 Resources

- Australian Curriculum Documents [Geography History](#) – NB these curriculum documents are under review and awaiting final endorsement.
- CEPS inquiry planning template
- Links to appropriate websites
- Relevant print material – maps, charts, texts, newspaper resources
- Multi media – website banks, apps
- Excursions/ Incursions are organized to enhance the learning opportunities when applicable.

5.0 Evaluation

- Student evaluation will be reported mid year and at the end of the year using the Australian Curriculum.
- Individual progress will be recorded throughout the year using a variety of assessment techniques.
- Students are supported to develop self and peer assessment tools.

6.0 End of Document