

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL HUMANITIES POLICY

Humanities includes Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography and History.

The Humanities provide a framework for students to examine the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and to investigate responses to different challenges including people's interconnections with the environment.

In Civics and Citizenship ([Level 3 onwards](#)) and Economics and Business ([Level 5 onwards](#)), students explore the systems that shape society, with a specific focus on legal and economic systems. Students learn about Australia's role in global systems, and are encouraged to appreciate democratic principles and to contribute as active, informed and responsible citizens.

In History and Geography ([Foundation onwards](#)), students explore the processes that have shaped and which continue to shape different societies and cultures, to appreciate the common humanity shared across time and distance, and to evaluate the ways in which humans have faced and continue to face different challenges.

Rationale:

[Civics and Citizenship](#) is essential in enabling students to become active and informed citizens who participate in and sustain Australia's democracy. Through the study of Civics and Citizenship, students investigate political and legal systems, and explore the nature of citizenship, diversity and identity in contemporary society. They gain the knowledge and skills necessary to question, understand and contribute to the world in which they live.

The Civics and Citizenship curriculum recognises that Australia is a secular democratic nation with a multicultural and multi-faith society, and promotes the development of inclusivity by developing students' understanding of broader values such as respect, civility, equity, justice and responsibility. It acknowledges the experiences and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their identities within contemporary Australia. While the curriculum strongly focuses on the Australian context, students also reflect on Australia's position, and obligations, and the role of the citizen today within an interconnected global world.

In studying civics and citizenship students will develop knowledge and understanding of Australia's representative democracy and the key institutions, processes, and roles people play in Australia's political and legal systems. Emphasis is placed on Australia's federal system of government, derived from the Westminster system, and the liberal democratic values that underpin it such as freedom, equality and the rule of law. The curriculum explores how the people, as citizens, choose their governments, how the system safeguards democracy by vesting people

with civic rights and responsibilities, how laws and the legal system protect people's rights and how individuals and groups can influence civic life.

By investigating contemporary issues and events students learn to value their belonging in a diverse and dynamic society, develop points of view and positively contribute locally, nationally, regionally and globally. As reflective, active and informed decision-makers, students will be well placed to contribute to an evolving and healthy democracy that fosters the wellbeing of Australia as a democratic nation.

Aims

Civics and Citizenship aims to ensure students develop:

- a lifelong sense of belonging to, and engagement with, civic life as an active and informed citizen in the context of Australia as a secular democratic nation with a dynamic, multicultural and multi-faith society
- knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the values, principles, institutions and practices of Australia's system of democratic government and law, and the role of the citizen in Australian government and society
- skills necessary to investigate contemporary civics and citizenship issues, and foster responsible participation in Australia's democracy
- the capacities and dispositions to participate in the civic life of their nation at a local, regional and global level.

Rationale

The [Economics and Business](#) curriculum explores the ways in which individuals, families, the community, workers, businesses and governments make decisions in relation to the allocation of resources. It enables students to understand the process of economic and business decision-making at the personal, local, national, regional and global levels and the effects of these decisions on themselves and others, now and in the future. Students learn to appreciate the interdependence of decisions made and develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that will inform and encourage them to participate in, and contribute to, the economy.

In studying economics and business students will develop transferable skills that enable them to identify and investigate contemporary economic and business issues or events. They will apply economic and business reasoning and interpretation to solve problems and interpret issues and events. This will assist them to understand the behaviour of participants in the economy, business, society and the environment. Students will then be better placed, now and in their adult lives, to participate in economic and business activities actively and effectively. They learn how current decisions and actions will shape future consequences and are encouraged to think critically about probable and preferred futures. This will enable them to contribute to the development of prosperous, sustainable and equitable Australian and global economies, to secure their own financial wellbeing, and to face the future with optimism and confidence.

Aims

The Economics and Business curriculum aims to develop students’:

- enterprising behaviours and capabilities that are transferable into life, work and business opportunities and contribute to the development and prosperity of individuals and society
- understanding of the ways society allocates limited resources to satisfy needs and wants, and how they participate in the economy as consumers, workers and producers
- understanding of the work and business environments within the Australian economy and its interactions and relationships with the global economy, in particular the Asia region
- reasoning and interpretation skills to apply economics and business concepts and theories to evaluate information they encounter, make informed decisions and use problem-solving skills to respond to economics and business issues and events
- understanding of economics and business decision-making and its role in creating a prosperous, sustainable and equitable economy for all Australians
- knowledge, understandings and skills that will enable them to participate actively and ethically in the local, national, regional and global economy as economically, financially and business-literate citizens.

Rationale

The **Geography** curriculum presents a structured way of 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. It addresses scales from the personal to the global and time periods from a few years to thousands of years.

Geography as a discipline integrates the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to build a holistic understanding of the world. Spatial thinking and geospatial technologies increasingly inform scholarship in these areas. In this sense, aspects of Geography are a component of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), fostering the development and application of distinctive STEM skills. Students learn to question why the world is the way it is, reflect on their relationships with and responsibility for that world and propose actions designed to shape a socially just and sustainable future.

The concept of place develops students’ curiosity and wonder about the diversity of the world’s places, peoples, cultures and environments. Students examine why places have particular environmental and human characteristics, explore the similarities and differences between them, investigate their meanings and significance to people and examine how they are managed and changed.

Students use the concept of space to investigate the effects of location and distance on the characteristics of places, the significance of spatial distributions, and the organisation and management of space at different scales. Through the concept of environment students learn about the role of the environment in supporting the physical and emotional aspects of human life, the important interrelationships between people and environments, and the range of views about these interrelationships.

Students use the concept of interconnection to understand how the causal relationships between places, people and environments constantly change their characteristics. Through the concept of sustainability students explore how the environmental functions that support their life and wellbeing can be sustained. The concept of scale helps them explore problems and look for explanations at different levels, such as local or regional. The concept of change helps them to explain the present and forecast possible futures.

The Geography curriculum teaches students to respond to questions in a geographically distinctive way, to collect, evaluate, analyse and interpret information, and suggest responses to what they have learned. They conduct fieldwork, map and interpret data and spatial distributions, and use spatial technologies. These skills can be applied in everyday life and at work.

Aims

The Geography curriculum aims to ensure that students develop:

- a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect for places, people, cultures and environments throughout the world
- a deep geographical knowledge of their own locality, Australia, the Asia region and the world
- the ability to think geographically, using geographical concepts
- the capacity to be competent, critical and creative users of geographical methods and skills
- the capacity to be informed, responsible and active citizens who can contribute to the development of a world that is environmentally and economically sustainable, and socially just.

Rationale

History is a disciplined process of investigation into the past that develops students' curiosity and imagination. Awareness of history is an essential characteristic of any society, and historical knowledge is fundamental to understanding ourselves and others. It promotes the understanding of societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped humanity from earliest times. It helps students appreciate how the world and its people have changed, as well as the significant continuities that exist to the present day. History, as a discipline, has its own methods and procedures which make it different from other ways of understanding human experience. The study of history is based on evidence derived from remains of the past. It is interpretative by nature, promotes debate and encourages thinking about human values, including present and future challenges. The study of history also provides opportunities to develop transferable skills of critical and creative thinking, such as the ability to explore questions, imagine possibilities and construct arguments.

Australian history is taught within a world history approach. This equips students for the world in which they live and enhances students' appreciation of Australian history. Students appreciate Australia's distinctive path of social, economic and political development, and Australia's position in the Asia-Pacific region, and our global relationships. Students develop an understanding of the past and present experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their identity, and the continuing contribution and value of their culture. This knowledge and understanding is essential for informed and active participation in Australia's diverse society.

Aims

History aims to ensure that students develop:

- interest in, and enjoyment of, historical study for lifelong learning and work, including their capacity and willingness to be informed and active citizens
- knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the past and the forces that shape societies, including Australian society
- understanding and use of historical concepts and skills, including sequencing chronology, using historical sources as evidence, identifying continuity and change, analysing cause and effect and determining historical significance
- capacity to undertake historical inquiry, including skills in the analysis and use of sources, and in explanation and communication of arguments.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by staff and leadership team in....

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