

Flemington Primary School

POLICY FOLDER



CURRICULUM - Integrated Curriculum Themes

Rationale

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) replaced the Curriculum and Standards Framework (CSF) as the basis for curriculum and assessment in Victorian schools from 2006.

At Flemington Primary School Integrated Curriculum provides a framework for the development of students' knowledge and understanding of society, including history, civics & citizenship, geography, economics, personal and interpersonal learning and thinking skills.

These integrated studies allow students to develop knowledge, skills and values that enable them to participate as active and informed citizens in a democratic society and in the global community.

Principles

- The integrated studies program will enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to actively participate as informed citizens in a democratic society and within the global community.
- All learning outcomes are of equal importance, but the time spent on each may vary with the unit being undertaken.
- Integrated studies topics are run on a 2 year cycle and integrated where relevant with other Domain areas of VELs. These topics are reviewed and changed where appropriate at the end of each cycle.
- The content should be suitable for all students, building on their prior knowledge, skills and experiences while challenging them to extend their development.
- An environment needs to be created in which all students can fully participate in the program.
- A variety of teaching strategies and assessment techniques are required to suit the learning styles of individual students and to reflect the full range of learning outcomes.

Aims

The teaching of the Integrated studies program at Flemington Primary School will:

- Extend students' knowledge of society and the environment;
- Enhance students' understanding of concepts in the disciplines underpinning students' knowledge and understanding of society, including history, civics & citizenship, geography, economics, personal and interpersonal learning and thinking skills;
- Enhance students' knowledge of what enables them to participate as active and informed citizens in a democratic society.
- Develop the skills needed to investigate and communicate information related to students' knowledge and understanding of society, including history, civics &

citizenship, geography, economics, personal and interpersonal learning and thinking skills;

- Enable students to develop and justify views about issues related to Studies of Society and Environment;
- Develop in students an appreciation of cultures other than their own.

Implementation

The following statements provide guidance for our approaches to curriculum planning and program development in this area:

- An Integrated Studies coordinator and committee will be appointed each year to oversee the implementation of the policy and program;
- A program budget will be established and monitored each year to ensure adequate resource provision within the budget;
- Teachers will use the Integrated Studies Units developed as Flemington in conjunction with science, technology, health and literacy sessions.
- Teachers will team plan in the integrated studies units, documenting the planning;
- As major planning documents, teachers will use the Victorian Essential Learning Standards {VELS}, Curriculum @ work, Knowledge Bank, the Integrated Studies Units developed at Flemington Primary School;
- Teachers will use a variety of teaching and assessment strategies such as Graphic Organisers and Thinking tools, Blooms Taxonomy, Gardners Multiple Intelligence, Rubrics etc.
- Incursions, excursions and overnight stays are planned on a needs basis for each topic;
- Teachers will have access to and be encouraged to take up ongoing professional development activities related to the integrated studies themes;
- Teachers will assess and report on student achievement within the integrated curriculum on the basis of the VELS outcomes;
- Integrated Studies will be evaluated in the light of the continued review and development of the Integrated Curriculum Plan.

References

Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide¹

VCAA website <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential/index.html>

Evaluation:

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

¹ <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/default.htm>