



# St. Joseph's Primary School

## HSIE POLICY 2011

### RATIONALE

St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa honours its commitment to quality Catholic education through its provision of high quality educational programs by which each child is enabled to reach their full potential.

(adapted from the school vision statement)

Human Society and Its Environment is the Key Learning Area in which students develop knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes about people and their social and physical environments. The syllabus enables teachers the opportunity to develop skills in not only acquiring information, but using an inquiry process that involves students participating in meaning.

The Human Society and Its Environment program at St Joseph's aims to provide a knowledge base for students to gain understandings about Change and Continuity, Cultures, Environments, and Social Systems and Structures.

It will provide opportunities for the students to develop inquiry learning skills by providing experiences that are meaningful to them, engaging them with actual people, places, events and issues.

The Human Society and Its Environment program will also strive to assist students to empathise with others and understand and evaluate the nature of the society to which they belong.

*".....the future and well-being of human society and its environment depends upon the quality of people's interactions with each other and with their culture, social and physical environments as they strive to meet each other's needs.*

Human Society and Its Environment Syllabus – October 1998

### AIMS

The aim of HSIE is to develop in students the values and attitudes, skills, knowledge and understanding that:

- enhance their sense of personal, community, national and global identity
- enable them to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment.

### CATHOLIC DIMENSIONS

As followers of Christ and people made in the image and likeness of God, students must truly value who they are and feel empowered to develop and become the people God wishes them to be. The ability of young people to value themselves and their environment as they grow and mature is a true reflection of the value and love God holds for all people.

Relationships with the people, the places, events and the things of this world are an essential part of students' growing understanding of themselves. The realisation of one's potential, demands a commitment to learning about the people, events and things of our world. In them, we believe, God may be found. Our faith is found in all that we teach and learn and God's hand is clearly evident in our past, our present and our future.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **PERSONNEL**

Class teachers who are responsible for teaching, assessing and writing units of work.  
Community members and parents who have specific skills.

### **PROCEDURES**

The teachers at St Joseph's will be responsible for implementing the Human Society and Its Environment syllabus appropriate to their stage level. The staff will follow a negotiated scope and sequence. It will work to ensure that the content from the strands of:

- ✦ Change and Continuity
- ✦ Cultures
- ✦ Environments
- ✦ Social Systems and Structures

are treated over the Early Stage 1 to Stage 3 student progression.

Each teacher will allocate the recommended time to the teaching of the Human Society and Its Environment program on a weekly basis.

A variety of teaching approaches will be implemented, where possible, within and across the Stages.

The Human Society and Its Environment program will, where possible, be linked with the other Key Learning Areas.

Incursions and excursions will, where appropriate, be arranged by classroom teachers to reinforce topics or units treated.

CSO personnel, parents and community members will be utilised, where possible, to reinforce topics or units treated.

Staff will be encouraged to participate in professional development in Human Society and Its Environment where opportunities arise.

The staff at St Joseph's School has developed a Scope and Sequence that will assist teachers in teaching specific topics for each grade level. The Board of Studies has also produced units of work that provide content to be covered in each of the units indicated for each grade.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment of Human Society and Its Environment will occur regularly, and may involve:

- Classroom observation.
- Teacher set tests and assessment tasks.
- Teacher / student discussion.
- Work samples.
- Classroom participation and interest.

## **RESOURCES**

The HSIE K – 6 Syllabus and support documents will provide the basis of implementation of policy aims. Units are supported by a range of library titles, both non-fiction and fiction, specifically selected by the teacher.

Appropriate funds will be allocated annually from the school budget to allow for the successful implementation of this policy. Staff will prioritise the purchase of resources that are necessary to effectively implement the HSIE Syllabus and units of work.

## **TIME ALLOCATION**

It is expected that an appropriate amount of time each week be allocated specifically for the teaching of this KLA (between 1 hour 25 minutes and 2 hours 40 minutes) to total 6% to 10% teaching time allocation.

## **EVALUATION**

This policy will be evaluated every three years by staff, or sooner if the need arises and reviewed at the beginning of each school year.

To be reviewed:

When the National Curriculum is implemented

The Scope and Sequence attached is currently followed by all teachers and suits the Stage based arrangements of the classes. The nature of the school is such that the composition of classes changes from time to time and the Scope and Sequence must change to reflect this.