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# *Human Society and Its Environment Policy*

## **RATIONALE**

As teachers at St Anthony's, we believe that the future wellbeing of human society and its environment depends upon the quality of people's interactions with each other and with their cultural, social and physical environments as they strive to meet each other's needs.

Human Society and Its Environment provides a knowledge base for students to gain understandings about change and continuity, cultures, environments, and social systems and structures. Students will have opportunities to learn about people and the environments with which they interact. This knowledge base provides the foundation for studies of Australian and world history and geography, for social, cultural and legal studies, for environmental and economic studies, and for citizenship education.

This key learning area provides opportunities for students to ask challenging questions, to be curious and to develop a lifelong love of learning. It focuses on developing inquiry learning skills and providing experiences that are meaningful for students, engaging them with actual people, places and issues wherever possible. It is a vehicle for conveying the excitement and diversity of human society and the environment as well as origins, developments, consequences and possibilities for the future. Through analysing information and values, students can make responsible decisions about social, economic, religious, civic and environmental issues that may affect them now or in the future.

Learning in Human Society and Its Environment can assist students to empathise with others and understand and evaluate the nature of the society to which they belong. Studies include perspectives of females and males, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, various cultural and socioeconomic groups, people with different religions and belief systems, and people with disabilities.

As a result of learning in Human Society and Its Environment, students should develop a sense of personal, community, national and global identity and the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that will equip them to participate as responsible citizens in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment.

## **AIMS**

We at St Anthony's strive to develop in students the values and attitudes, skills, and knowledge and understandings 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.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- This Key Learning Area is based on the Human Society and Its Environment K-6 Syllabus (1998) produced by the Board of Studies.
- Integration of English text types will be implemented where appropriate throughout the units of work.
- The content has been organised into four interrelated strands –  
Change and Continuity  
Cultures  
Environments  
Social Systems and Structures
- Students will develop skills in acquiring information, using an inquiry process, and social and civic participation.
- Students will be provided with a variety of experiences including guest speakers, community workers based on topic areas and excursions to appropriate venues.
- Students will cover a variety of content areas such as Civics, Australian history Aboriginal perspectives, citizenship, environment, gender, global, multicultural and work perspectives.
- Students have opportunities to display and present their work at school assemblies.
- Formal and informal assessment occurs throughout the year using formative and summative strategies.

### **Budget:**

A budget will be provided for the professional development of staff and acquisition of resources.

## SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

- *Human Society and Its Environment K-6 Syllabus (1998)*

## EVALUATION

- Policy is to be evaluated every two years by the staff in February (2010)

**Date Adopted:** February, 2006

**Policy Responsibility:** Leadership Team

**Signed**

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*Principal*