



Integrated Studies

POLICY

Mount Pleasant Road Primary School

A. Rationale:

- A.1. Integrated Studies curriculum refers to the structured organisation of teaching and learning experiences in which significant content, across and within learning areas is selected to develop students' understanding of the world. They develop important understandings, concepts, values and skills that apply across and beyond the traditional constraints of individual learning areas.
- A.2. A quality integrated curriculum should be meaningful and engaging for students and provide them with relevant understandings about the world in which they live.

B. Aims:

- B.1. To enable students to explore, gather, organise and present information in order to see the relationships and links between their learning, and to use these to make sense of their world.
- B.2. To provide quality learning activities to develop students' skills and understandings across the learning areas of Science, Technologies, Humanities, Health, Interpersonal Development and the four capabilities, Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical, Intercultural and the Personal and Social capabilities.
- B.3. To bring together various curriculum areas by using a theme or topic. These planned units of work have a main focus based on one or two learning areas.
- B.4. For students to exercise choice over their learning by including an opportunity to participate in Curiosity Hour.

C. Implementation:

- C.1. Teachers will work in level teams to plan and deliver sequential units of work, which will ensure that all areas of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 are covered. The elaborations connected to each learning statement will be used to plan relevant activities. Teams will be given time to plan together with all teachers in their level.
- C.2. Units of work will be based on the Mount Pleasant Road Integrated Units and Curiosity Hour Big Concepts using the Victorian Curriculum F-10 Science, Humanities, Health, Digital and Technologies domains. The four capabilities (see definition E.2.) will be embedded throughout these Integrated Units of Work. All year levels will work on one major, 'rich', guided inquiry unit of work per term. Each unit is based around a number of essential questions. Students will be made aware of the essential and unit questions for engagement, questioning and reflection.
- C.3. Units are planned over a two-year cycle. The topic covers one term, so there are four per year, and eight per two-year cycle. The schedule of broad 'big picture' concepts, which enables key areas of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 to be taught will be determined by staff, after student input. The topics should be authentic and allow for global connections.
- C.4. Integrated Studies will be resourced through the school classroom budgets.
- C.5. Each concept is explored developmentally from Foundation to Year 6 and the ideas are built on and expanded as students move from level to level. This developmental approach ensures that content is not repeated and matches the maturity and readiness of students at each level.
- C.6. Also included in each term's Integrated Studies unit of work will be Curiosity Hour. In Years 3-6 this allows students to investigate a question of their choosing or complete a challenge based around the terms Integrated Studies unit. In Year F-2, with considerably more teacher guidance, this allows students to

participate in the unit of work by asking their own questions and exercising choice over what they investigate or how they present their findings.

- C.7. Students across each level will be given opportunities to develop cooperative strategies and collaborate on projects.
- C.8. Students will be introduced to a range of thinking skills and graphic organiser templates.
- C.9. Teachers will report twice per year on Integrated Studies. Science, Digital Technologies and the Personal and Social capability will be reported on each semester. All other curriculum areas will be reported on at least once over the two year cycle.

D. Evaluation:

- D.1. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

E. Definitions:

- E.1. **The Victorian Curriculum F-10** is the curriculum for Victorian schools. It incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian standards and priorities. The curriculum is accessed from the Victorian Curriculum F-10 website
- E.2. **The Four Capabilities:** These are a set of discrete knowledge and skills that can and should be taught explicitly in and through the learning areas, but are not fully defined by any of the learning areas or disciplines. It is expected that the skills and knowledge defined in the capabilities will be developed, practised, deployed and demonstrated by students in and through their learning across the curriculum.