Doncaster Gardens Primary School
Humanities Policy

Philosophical Basis:

The Humanities involve the study of human societies and environments, people and their cultures in the past and the present. The study of Humanities will develop an awareness in students of the shared elements and diversity of the world and their own environments, and enable students to participate effectively in society.

Guidelines:

- The Humanities program is planned throughout the school in units of work, based on a whole school scope and sequence, which leads students through broad areas of understandings.
- The Humanities encourage the use research skills and inquiry processes.
- The four dimensions of learning – knowledge, values, skills and action – are encompassed in each unit of work.
- The program is based on a whole school approach to the development of students’ understandings.
- Wherever possible, connections will be made with the broader community.
- Use is made of community resources, including people and places.

Implementation:

- Humanities will be taught and assessed according to the dimensions and inquiry activities of the AusVELS – Geography, History and Economics.
- At the beginning of the year, teachers work in teams to identify, in broad terms, the focus of their work for each term.
- As each unit is prepared, a more detailed plan is developed, including related experiences, excursions and camps.
- At the completion of each unit of work, a resource folder of materials relevant to the topic, is collated and filed.
- Specialist teachers within the school are involved in the planning and implementation of the planned units of work.

Evaluation:

- At the completion of each unit of work, the value of the topic as an on-going unit will be assessed in the light of the following:
  - the children’s enthusiasm for, and understanding of, the inquiry process.
  - the development of children’s study skills, knowledge and ability to make value judgements.
  - students being active participants in units, including taking initiative in following up areas of interest.
- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.

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