Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School
Humanities Policy (AusVELS)

Rationale:
The Humanities in Prep to Year 6 involves the study of human societies and environments, people and their cultures in the past and the present. The Humanities provide a framework for developing in students the key ideas and concepts that enable them to understand the way in which people and societies have organised their world under particular conditions and made meaning of it. It provides unique ways to understand how and why groups of people have settled where they have, organised their societies, developed means of generating and distributing wealth, developed codes, laws and belief systems, related to other groups of people and interacted with their physical environment. The Humanities encourage use of research skills and inquiry processes. Students learn to plan an investigation and ask key questions. They question and analyse a range of data and sources including artefacts, photographs, maps, stories, special events, interviews, site visits and electronic media. They form conclusions supported by evidence and present information in a variety of ways.

In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the Humanities further divides into the disciplines of History, Geography and Economics, however only History has content descriptors for Year 3 and 4.

- **Geography** is the study of physical and human environments from a spatial perspective. It provides students with the knowledge and skills to observe and describe places on the surface of the Earth and to analyse and provide explanations from a spatial perspective of human and physical phenomena and their complex interactions. Students’ evolving understanding of their world provides a basis for evaluating strategies for the sustainable use and management of the world’s resources.

- **History** is the study of the past from ancient civilisations to today’s news. Learning in the History domain provides students with knowledge, skills and behaviours to understand themselves and their world, to apply their understanding in their present lives and consider futures they desire. The study of history encompasses the broad time sweep of human history from ancient and medieval times to today. It develops in students an understanding of cultures, ideas and values that are important to other societies as well as their own. It considers the way societies have changed and also the significant continuities which exist. Key concepts include time, continuity, change, motivation, cause and effect as well as concepts that relate to particular historical contexts. Students learn that all history, including Australian history, reflects multiple influences and connections to an array of other countries, cultures and times. They learn about the key events in the history of the Australian nation and how it has evolved over time. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) history is an integral perspective within Australian history.

- **Economics** is the study of how different societies allocate scarce resources to satisfy the wants and needs of its members. As with any social science, economics is concerned with human social behaviour: the behaviour of individuals and the interaction among them. Economics is also concerned with how to best manage resource scarcity and addresses the requirements for human survival and economic sustainability.
Aims:
At Our Lady Help of Christians we aim for our students to:
- Discover information about the traditional owners of the area in which our school is located.
- Know about their place in the world – where they live, where they come from.
- Appreciate and value their own stories and the stories of others.
- Be informed about their local neighbourhood, Australia and the global neighbourhood.
- Learn how they can contribute to making a better future for the world.
- Know about a variety of issues which affect our world – e.g. social issues, environmental issues, justice issues.
- Learn about the inter-connectedness and interdependence of all things – know how to make links.
- Learn how to access information.
- Appreciate that there are diverse ways of doing, being and seeing - diverse voices and views.
- Know about authentic historical perspectives – whose perspective?
- Develop an appreciation of the beauty of the world we live in.

The knowledge which is the basis of the Humanities domain is accompanied by the development of skills which enable students to:
- Identify, collect and process data from a range of sources, including electronic media
- Use the inquiry process to plan an investigation, analyse data, and form conclusions supported by evidence
- Reason and solve problems to assist them in making meaning of their society and environment
- Clarify values and attitudes about issues affecting society and the environment, in particular tolerance of people from many cultures and commitment to the democratic process
- Participate in activities that enhance community life, particularly in making decisions about civic projects and in ways of achieving ecologically sustainable development
- Use information technology to support learning about society and environment and in investigating and communicating ideas.

Implementation:
At Our Lady Help of Christians we utilise a variety of teaching strategies which include the following:
- Concept mapping
- Inquiry Approach
- Use of a variety of teaching and learning strategies to deliver units of work.
- Research and Investigation
- Project Work
- Independent inquiry and self-discovery.
- Interviews
- Drama
- Use of the Arts – Visual, Performing, Media.
- Use of excursions and incursions to gain first-hand experience.
- Use of community resources – speakers, facilities, environment, storytelling.
- Information Technology
- Allow opportunities for students to present their work in a variety of ways.
- Allow opportunities for student input into planning and direction.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Staff - Term 2 2015