

Strategic Plan 2013 to 2017

Learning Area: SOSE

Head of Learning Area: Hayley Arch (Jonathan Myers – Acting)

Purpose and Core Values

1 Corinthians 10:23-25. *'Everything is permissible—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible—but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, for, the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.'*

Genesis 1:26-28 *'Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground'.

A study of Society and Environment recognises that *'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it'*. We recognise that God has created an infinitely complex and wonderful world, and has placed humanity in charge to maintain, grow and enjoy his creation. We recognise that as the image bearers of God and the head of his creation, we have freedom of choice in how we use the resources God has placed before us. However, simply because something is permissible, it does not mean that it is beneficial. Just because we can do something doesn't mean that we should. A good steward of God's environment seeks not their own good, but rather the good of others. Our purpose is to educate students in the systems and structures of our Society and our Environment, to encourage them to be discerning in identifying ideas and activities that are beneficial and constructive to their own lives as well as the society and environment in which they live, and to equip them with the skills needed to seek the good of others.

With this purpose in mind we:

- Seek to instill a passion for discovery and understanding of our complex world within our students.
- Encourage good work habits and provide intellectual challenge whilst actively encouraging students to have a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Our core values are: Unity, Teamwork, Christ-like professionalism, creativity and innovation to produce quality teaching and learning, a community of encouragement.

Vision and Strategies

- Stimulate student curiosity, interest and enjoyment in the SOSE subjects.
- Encourage a sensitive awareness of the dynamic environment in which the students live.
- Develop an understanding of the Human, Physical, Historical and Cultural processes responsible for shaping our environment.
- Develop an awareness of the contemporary issues threatening our environment.
- Promote an awareness of the different communities and cultures that exist as well as the contrasting opportunities and constraints facing them.
- Encourage an awareness of global interdependence.

- Develop skills of data analysis, graphical skills, map work, source and document analysis, numeracy and literacy.
- Develop a range of practical skills through fieldwork.
- Develop an understanding of the attitudes and values of other groups.
- Encourage the development of informed opinions and the ability to forward reasoned arguments.
- Develop computer literacy through the use of the Internet, spreads sheets, visual presentation of data through graphics and report writing.
- Develop study skills as a preparation for the world of work, higher education and leisure.
- Enable students to perform at their highest level of competence in public examinations.
- Prepare pupils for the environmental, cultural and personal responsibilities of adult life.

Three-Year Operational Goals

- Raise the profile of SOSE and increase the number of students taking SOSE subjects at Year 11 and 12.
- Improved examination results
- Maintain the high quality of teaching programs through seeking to improve the standard of work.
- Full Implementation of Australian Curriculum for History in Years 7 and 8 including assessment objectives.
- Implementation of Australian Curriculum for History in Year 9.
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- Plan for the Australian Curriculum for History in Year 10.
- Implementation of Australian Curriculum for History in Year 10.
- Familiarisation of the Australian Curriculum for Geography.

Five-Year Operational Goals

- Expand the subjects offered at Year 11 and 12. For example Stage 3 Geography and possibly Politics and Law, and Tourism.
- Continue running an overseas trip linked with History/ Ancient History.
- Continue to raise the profile of the SOSE subjects and improved examination results.
- Continue to develop teachers within the team through effective leadership, encouragement and PD.
- Full Implementation of Australian Curriculum for History in Year 10.
- Implementation of Australian Curriculum for Geography in Years 7 to 10 dependent on government timing.

Our Strategies to deliver on our Vision and 5 year goals are:

- Implement Australian Curriculum for History in Years 7 and 8.
- Plan for Australian Curriculum for History in Year 9
- Develop resources addressing the Australian Curriculum
- Continue to raise the profile of the SOSE subjects and improve examination results.
- Continue to develop teachers within the team through effective leadership, encouragement and PD.
- Build ties in cross-curricula activities.
- Staff representation on professional associations (e.g. HTAWA, CAC).
- Staff involvement in WACE marking.

Challenges over the next 1 to 2 years are:

- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum for History and Geography.
- Continue to improve academic results in Senior School.