

Integrated Inquiry Policy

Rationale

The Integrated Units of Inquiry is St. Elizabeth's Parish School's approach to organising the provision of learning and teaching in the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and throughout all Domains and Dimensions.

At St. Elizabeth's, inquiry / integration based learning is seen as more than just an "approach" to learning, but rather as a model empowering students to learn independently through a process which mirrors real life thinking and learning. Within the context of comprehensive issue-based units of study, students are provided with opportunities to develop the skills of an autonomous, self regulated learner. Where thinking, risk-taking, self direction, independence, interdependence, inter/intra personal skills, technological skills, conceptual skills, artistic skills, experimentation, problem finding and solving, decision making, idea generation and idea action are effectively infused.

Principles

In a world with increasingly global economies and competition, students need to learn how to think critically and analytically and to apply their imagination to solve complex problems. Comprehensive, issue-based units of work, help students to identify problems, pose questions, research answers, report results, take action and create a stake in their learning.

- Inquiry learning does not begin with a statement, but with questions. Asking questions is at the heart of inquiry-based learning.
- Inquiry learning emphasizes constructivist ideas of learning. Knowledge is built in a step-wise fashion.
- The topic, problem to be studied and methods used to answer this problem are determined by the student and not the teacher.
- Students are more engaged in their learning when it is purposeful and relevant.
- Real life learning is not compartmentalised into subjects, so neither should the classroom.

Implementation

Eight Integrated Inquiry Units are planned for and implemented over a two year period in all levels.

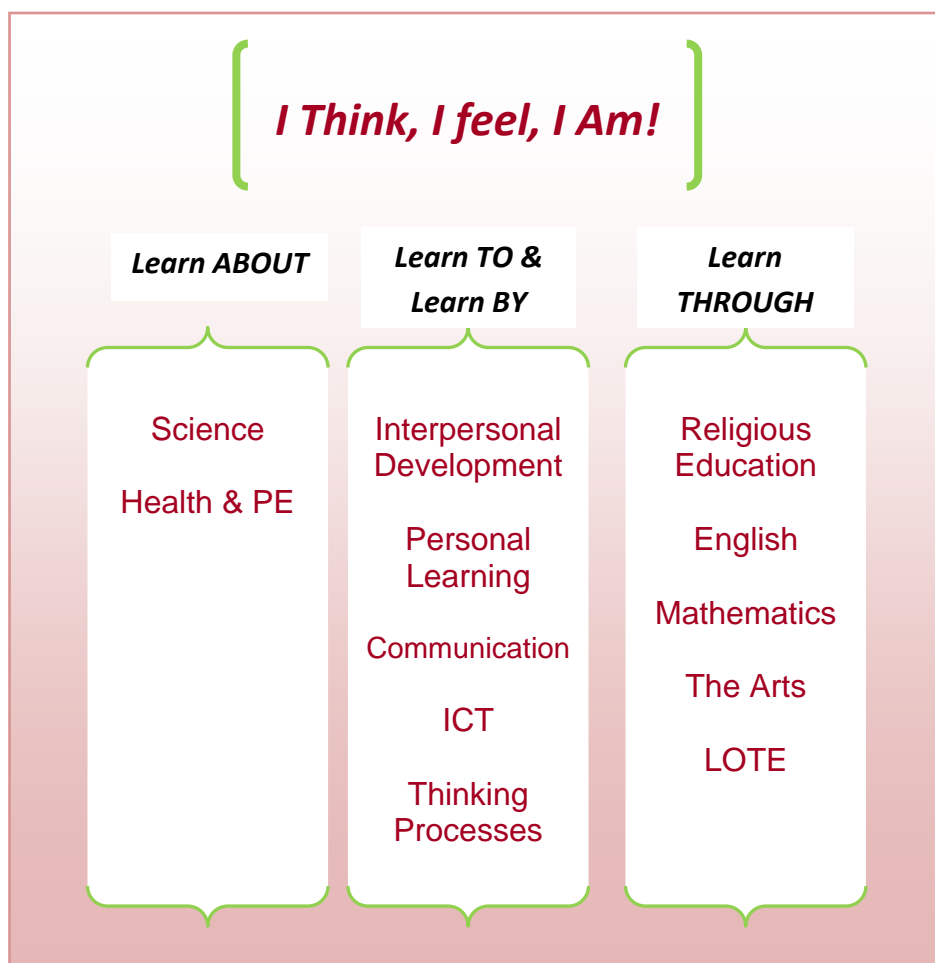
These Units are titled:

- I think, I feel, I am
- That's Entertainment
- Around the World in 80 Days
- Bright Sparks
- Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
- Living Things
- Our Land Australia
- Australia in our World

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards are integrated into each of these Units as appropriate and where related to Understandings as determined in the planning process.

Content Domains & Dimensions	Skills Domains & Dimensions	Assessing, sorting expressing reflecting and acting on understandings, skills and strategies
That is; what we will learn ABOUT	That is; we will LEARN TO and LEARN BY	That is; we will LEARN THROUGH...
The Humanities Economics Geography History Science Knowledge and understandings Health and PE Knowledge and understandings Civics and Citizenship Knowledge and understandings	Interpersonal Development Personal Learning Communication ICT Thinking Processes	Religious Education English Mathematics The Arts Design, Creativity & Technology Health & PE Movement & Physical Activity LOTE

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards, Domains and Dimensions are typically integrated as seen below. Integration of selected Domains and Dimensions may vary as the Inquiry Unit is facilitated depending on the context of the identified community action, also known as a “So What!” is decided upon by the students.



That's Entertainment!

Learn ABOUT

The Humanities

Civics & Citizenship

**Learn TO &
Learn BY**

Interpersonal Development

Personal Learning

Communication

ICT

Thinking Processes

Learn THROUGH

English

Mathematics

The Arts

Movement & Physical Activity

LOTE

Around the World in 80 Days!

Learn ABOUT

The Humanities

Civics & Citizenship

**Learn TO &
Learn BY**

Interpersonal Development

Personal Learning

Communication

ICT

Thinking Processes

Learn THROUGH

English

Mathematics

The Arts

LOTE

Bright Sparks!

Learn ABOUT

The
Humanities

Science

**Learn TO &
Learn BY**

Interpersonal
Development

Personal
Learning

Communication

ICT

Thinking
Processes

**Learn
THROUGH**

English

Mathematics

The Arts

Design,
Creativity &
Technology

LOTE

Healthy Body, Healthy mind!

Learn ABOUT

Science
Health & PE

**Learn TO &
Learn BY**

Interpersonal
Development

Personal
Learning

Communication

ICT

Thinking
Processes

**Learn
THROUGH**

Religious
Education

English

Mathematics

The Arts

Movement &
Physical
Activity

LOTE

Living Things!

Learn ABOUT

The Humanities
Science

**Learn TO &
Learn BY**

Interpersonal Development
Personal Learning
Communication
ICT
Thinking Processes

Learn THROUGH

Religious Education
English
Mathematics
The Arts
LOTE

Our Land Australia!

Learn ABOUT

The Humanities
Civics & Citizenship

**Learn TO &
Learn BY**

Interpersonal Development
Personal Learning
Communication
ICT
Thinking Processes

Learn THROUGH

English
Mathematics
The Arts
LOTE



Units are unpacked and Essential Questions determined using an appropriate thinking tool. After a Essential Questions are determined, a process is undertaken which takes into account student interests, and needs of the school and wider community to identify a relevant “So What”. This is a question starting with the words “What if we could...” and prompts students to identify a purpose for their learning which ultimately results in them taking some action which will improve their own lives or the lives of others.

Inquiry units are facilitated using the following process;

