

Social Sciences Full Review May 2018

The board is not specifically looking at achievement data here in this report but may think it is appropriate to conduct some self review of where we are at. That would help to digest and understand this information - [Social Studies Self Review](#) - print out and record in meeting - note the review cycle made by the strategy committee earlier in the year may need to be reworked in light of our curriculum development timetable

After years of not being fully accountable for assessment and achievement over the whole curriculum, many staff have lost touch with the curriculum achievement objectives and how to assess them. From the Ministry downwards, lipservice has been paid to the full curriculum, but National Standards took a lot away from it. Anecdotally, teachers who have been trained in the last 8 years or so have not been fully trained in the whole curriculum and have been given a paper about “the rest of the curriculum.” Prior to National Standards all teachers were trained in depth in all aspects of the full curriculum.

Our term one inquiry focus this year was a social studies focus. The principal supported staff by helping them access the curriculum by doing the overall master plans for each level and making the curriculum achievement objectives explicit. It was clear when staff were asked to plan, assess and report against the curriculum objectives that many staff were not clear how to do this. Developing this understanding was too big a task to take on in term 1 for a variety of good reasons. Rather than go ahead and do something that was meaningless and for show, the principal made the call that the staff would not assess this curriculum area last term.

From that it became clear that we need to do in-depth development of the whole curriculum with the whole staff.

ERO noted this too.

Our senior leadership team addressed this in our day meeting in the holidays and we now have a plan for curriculum development over the next three years. Some may question why it takes that long and the acting principal, staff rep or principal will be able to explain in the meeting.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Agreed:

- To focus on one Arts area per term and teach thoroughly - elements, practical knowledge etc.
- PE and health is ongoing and also needs to be taught according to the curriculum - not just going out to play a game.
- Oral language and vocabulary-building is a big barrier to literacy in our school and needs to be systematically taught and timetabled (unpacking further scheduled in term 2 2019 and we should look for pd in this for 2019). Also early

learner's physical readiness for literacy - e.g. if gross motor skills not in place according to development expectations, cannot develop fine motor skills for writing or reading. Inconsistent and erratic eye tracking is an issue in new entrants which means they take a long time to establish left to right page tracking and single word identification on a page - before even beginning to read them.

Senior Leadership team looked at different approaches to curriculum. Agreed to stick to St Joseph's approach to inquiry curriculum and wherever possible further this into project-based learning. Use the SOLO-based inquiry planning format.

Long Term Plan - develop further guidelines for each curriculum area as we go

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Ongoing	Oral language and Health and Physical Education			
The Arts -ongoing	Drama	Dance	Music Singing Cup	Visual Art
2018	Social Sciences	Performing Arts - production	Science - Nature of Science (NoS) and Living World	Careers - yr 7 & 8 EOTC Computational Thinking Technology - yr 1-6
2019	Social Sciences	Science (NoS) Material World	Science (NoS) Physical World	EOTC Computational Thinking* Technology - yr 1-6
2020	Social Sciences	Performing Arts - production	Science (NoS) Planet Earth and Beyond	Careers - yr 7 & 8 EOTC Computational Thinking Technology - yr 1-6

*also include opportunities for computational thinking integrated into maths learning.

ALSO: We are having conversations with St Kevin's on a year 1 to 13 Social Sciences curriculum, similar to our Science development. It is likely we will carry this out this year.