Studies of Asia

Rationale

The region in which Australia is located makes up half the world, and is on the verge of assuming a new economic, political and strategic significance. Asia constitutes 30 per cent of the world’s land mass, and will contain 60 per cent of the world’s population by 2050. It includes the world’s two most populous nations, China and India, which with their populations will soon make up more than half of the world’s population.

Over the next 50 years the Asian region is expected to become the centre of world economic development. Asia includes the greatest regional diversity of belief systems, including Indonesia, which is our closest neighbour. Asia is of immense and growing significance, and it is on our doorstep.

Croydon Hills Primary is proud to have two sister schools in South Korea. The school has visits to our school from staff and students from our sister schools and also visits the sister schools with year 5/6 students and staff from our school as well as touring South Korea. This program Supports the principles of friendship, peace and mutual respect among people and nations.

Croydon Hills Primary second language is Indonesian.

Policy Statement

Studies of Asia refers to the explicit inclusion of content on Asia in a range of the learning areas. It is not a separate learning area or discipline, but is intended to be infused into appropriate levels and areas of the curriculum to provide students with sequenced and sustained understandings of the region within an Australian context.

We believe that children should have the opportunity to develop:

- an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of environments, cultures and societies of Asia
- informed attitudes and behaviours towards Asian people, events, issues and lifestyles
- an understanding of the economic, strategic and cultural importance of the countries of Asia
- an understanding of the diversity of values within Asian societies and an awareness beyond cultural stereotypes
- skills that enable them to interact effectively with people from the Asian region and contribute to Asia-related activities at school and beyond
- a commitment to the principles of friendship, peace, social justice and mutual respect among all peoples and nations.

Implementation

Aspects of Studies of Asia will gradually be incorporated into existing course content across the curriculum and all students will have the opportunity to experience some Asia-related learning in all years of schooling.

Developing concepts of Asia

- Explore various views about what is meant by the term “Asia”, in geographical, historical, cultural and economic terms.
- Acquire knowledge and an appreciation of the diversity of Asia’s peoples, societies, environments and cultures.
- Identify and analyse the many links between Asian nations. Explore the concept of an Asian community and significance of this for Australia and other member nations.
- Explore the terms ‘developed’, ‘less developed’ and ‘underdeveloped’ as apply to countries.
Challenging stereotypes

- Identify the negative stereotypes that exist and discuss why they persist.
- Analyse and discuss the bases of stereotyped views of the cultures of Asia.
- Develop an awareness of interdependence and commonality of humanity.

Being informed about contemporary issues

- Identify and analyse issues or events in Asia that have current and local interest and relevance.
- Discuss the action being taken to resolve problems.
- Select recurring issues which have been brought into prominence by some recent events.

Understanding contributions made by the peoples of Asia to the world

- Identify the contributions of the cultures of Asia to world heritage and traditions.
- Develop an understanding of particular civilisations, traditions, values and beliefs associated with societies, ways of life, and cultures of Asia that have an effect on other cultures.
- Explore ways in which technologies are shared between Australia, Asia and the global community.

Considering the likely implications of closer Asia-Australia relationships

- Identify and analyse the contributions made to Australian society by Australians of Asian heritage and by Australians living and working in Asia.
- Develop an understanding of the changes occurring as the consequence of the multi cultural mix as a result of Asian immigration, tourism and investment.
- Analyse the links between Australia and Asia and predict implications for Australia’s future prosperity.

References

Department Guidelines
Studies of Asia: A statement for Australian Schools

Review

As part of the school’s cyclic process