



Head, Hearts and Hands Service Learning Program



Year 6 Red Cross *In Search of Safety* program "Expanding my Community"

Overview

The focus of this program is gaining an insight into the issues faced by those who are homeless and forced to flee their country. This program is linked into work in Humanities and English. This unit is to be launched each year with a visit from The Australian Red Cross to each Year 6 class for an hour and a half introduction to:

- What is an asylum seeker?
- Is it illegal to seek asylum?
- What is Australia's obligation towards asylum seekers?

The program aims to clarify the facts around asylum seekers and provide insights into their journey to Australia.

- **Presentation** covering human rights, United Nations conventions and facts about the status of the refugee plight within the global and Australian context.
- **Empathy building simulation game** an exciting, interactive opportunity for the whole class to be involved.
- **Seeking Refuge DVD** a compelling series of short animated documentaries portraying the real-life stories of children who have sought asylum.

The program enables students to build awareness and understanding about people impacted by migration, with the aim of improving critical thinking skills and developing empathy. The program will reinforce both the humanity of refugees and the challenges that are faced by someone who has suffered loss of family, friends and country. It also further highlights the work of agencies such as The Australian Red Cross who are working with these challenges on a daily basis.

Timing

Term 3

Curriculum Links:

English:

- Make connections between students' own experiences and those of characters and events represented in texts drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts as well as people from our community.
- Participate in and contribute to discussions, clarifying and interrogating ideas, developing and supporting arguments, sharing and evaluating information, experiences and opinions.

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Humanities and Social Sciences:

- Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia, the reasons they migrated (e.g. push-pull factors) and their contributions to society.

Design Technologies

- How people address competing considerations, including sustainability when designing products, services and environments for current and future use. (Linked to our fund raising for The Australian Red Cross)

General Capabilities:

- *Literacy*

Use language to interact with others- use pair, group and class discussions and formal and informal debates as learning tools to explore ideas, test possibilities, compare solutions, rehearse ideas and arguments in preparation for creating texts using critical thinking tools such as 'I use to think but now I think...' and Tug of War.

- *Personal and Social Capability*

Contribute to civil society - analyse personal and social roles and responsibilities in planning and implementing ways of contributing to their communities

- *Ethical Understanding*

Examine values- assess the relevance of beliefs and the role and application of values in social practices.

Explore rights and responsibilities - analyse rights and responsibilities in relation to the duties of a responsible citizen.

Consider points of view - draw conclusions from a range of points of view associated with challenging ethical dilemmas.

[Engagement with All Saints' College Four Pillars of Service Learning](#)

Intentional Learning:

The primary learning for Year 6 students in the area of service is to:

- Become informed about the facts about asylum seekers and refugees through thought-provoking presentations and discussions,
- Engage students in activities and enlightening stories told by speakers who have first-hand experience of seeking asylum and being granted protection in Australia.
- Develop empathy and provide students with an opportunity to share and recognise emotions and issues experienced by asylum seekers and refugees.

Diversity:

The diversity of this program comes from helping students to connect with the experiences, needs and avenues of assistance that exist in the lives of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, an experience which is widely removed from their experience at school.

Furthermore, access the activities help students to understand the diverse ways and levels at which they can be involved in service.

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Partnership:

This program is a part of our emerging partnership with The Australian Red Cross in Year 6.

[The Leader in Me Link](#)

Be Proactive,

Begin with the End in Mind,

Think Win-Win,

Synergise

Seek First to Understand then to be Understood.