



## Supporting Information

### Educational theory: Place Based Education

*PBE is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in subjects across the curriculum. Emphasising hands-on, real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to the community, enhances students' appreciation for the natural world and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens. Community vitality and environmental quality are improved through the active engagement of local citizens, community organizations, and environmental resources in the life of the school.*

(Sobel, David. Place-based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities, The Orion Society, Nature Literacy Series No.4, 2005.)

### VELS

The new Victorian Essential Learning Standards places emphasis through the following Domains; Civics and Citizenship (through the Dimension, Community Engagement), Personal Learning (awareness of self as learner), Interpersonal Development (working in teams, understanding diversity), Humanities (through a focus on resource management), Science (sustainable practices, human influences on environment, scientific concepts), Communication (interacting with others, listening, viewing and responding), Design, Creativity and Technology ( using tools and equipment, problem solving) and Thinking processes (informed decision making, inquiry).

There is now a strong emphasis placed on student welfare and supporting teachers in understanding and responding to different learning styles (Principles of Learning and Teaching) which recognizes that students need alternative learning environments beyond the classroom.

*Learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom. The teacher plans for students to interact with local and broader communities and community practices.*

(PoLT's No. 6.1)

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