

TEACHER/COORDINATOR INFORMATION

Kokoda Youth Foundation have engaged in learning outcomes for students that participate within our events and try to identify other learning opportunities for various years to take education outdoors.

Learnings from our events can be highly during training sessions e.g. nature, biology etc. However the life lessons of personal and social capability consolidates what a life of early years in education is taught condensed into a few short months by engaging in one of our Kokoda Challenge Events.

Kokoda Youth Foundation see Personal and Social Capability as most the important learning outcome. There is a strong parallel between of what students learn during their Kokoda Journey and the curriculum outcomes of learning personal and social capability.

EXCERPT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM WEBSITE (www.australiancurriculum.edu.au):

'Students develop personal and social capability as they learn to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively. Personal and social capability involves students in a range of practices including recognising and regulating emotions, developing empathy for others and understanding relationships, establishing and building positive relationships, making responsible decisions, working effectively in teams, handling challenging situations constructively and developing leadership skills. Personal and social capability supports students in becoming creative and confident individuals who, as stated in the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (MCEETYA 2008), 'have a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing', with a sense of hope and 'optimism about their lives and the future'. On a social level, it helps students to 'form and maintain healthy relationships' and prepares them 'for their potential life roles as family, community and workforce members' (MCEETYA, p. 9). Students with well-developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, develop resilience and a sense of self-worth, resolve conflict, engage in teamwork and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. The development of personal and social capability is a foundation for learning and for citizenship. Personal and social capability encompasses students' personal/emotional and social/relational dispositions, intelligences, sensibilities and learning. It develops effective life skills for students, including understanding and handling themselves, their relationships, learning and work. Although it is

named 'Personal and Social capability', the words 'personal/emotional' and 'social/relational' are used interchangeably throughout the literature and within educational organisations. The term 'social and emotional learning' is also often used, as is the SEL acronym. When students develop their skills in any one of these elements, it leads to greater overall personal and social capability, and enhances their skills in the other elements. The more students learn about their own emotions, values, strengths and capacities, the more they are able to manage their own emotions and behaviors, and to understand others and establish and maintain positive relationships.'

CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITIES

- Kokoda Youth Foundation recognise curriculum priorities and align Kokoda Challenge Events outcomes with these enabling further student engagement.
- Kokoda Youth Foundation understand that bridging the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander within our communities is important. We see this as an opportunity for students to learn about themselves and their identities as well as Non-Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander students to engage in reconciliation, respect and recognition for Australia's continuous living cultures.
- Participation in the Kokoda Challenge Events indicates how students transform from the start of the team building processes in the lead up into an event as well as during. Long distance trail walking is understood to help people cope with change and make enduring and positive changes in their lives.
- As a team event requiring members to support each other, this bonding process creates a strong rapport within the team. Overall, students become empathetic and considerate, understanding that not everyone walks the same path and attitudes change.
- The opportunity to gain information and history about our local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities is readily available. The local environments/region contain evidence or ancestors, creation times, relationships between the sky, landforms, waterways, plants, animals and people. The relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, their language over time, connection to place, colonisation, loss of identity, life stories, family histories and current realities. Kokoda Youth Foundation recommend connecting with local organisations, affiliations to assist in gathering knowledge to teach more whilst out on training walks. Student presentation or talks can be set for students to learn further about histories and cultures and present this information to their peers about what they have learnt.
- Further cross curriculum approach is to Sustainability. Kokoda Youth Foundation implements sustainability in all its processes and always strive to do better. Our main document is the Bushwalkers Code which stands by 'tread lightly.' Education in sustainability is about ways that we can contribute to a more sustainable living pattern and in turn this education hopefully allows student to make informed decisions.
- Please refer to Index for Curriculum outcomes with Kokoda Challenge Events. Further learning outcomes that align with Kokoda Challenge Events have been explored and noted.

THE SENIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM

- The Curriculum describes the knowledge, understanding and skills that are taught and learned. The achievement standards describe the quality of learning (the depth of understanding, extent of knowledge and sophistication of skill) expected of students who have studied the content for the subject. For secondary students the lifelong learning of school up until Secondary will be engrained even further with their participation within our events.
- Students that are in Senior Secondary will start to experience a mental, physical and emotional journey through their training for the event. The Kokoda Challenge is about discovering personal limits, learning that the human spirit is capable of extraordinary things in the face of difficulty and potential failure. Participation in the event provides structure, discipline and boundaries. It engrains responsibility, reliability, effective communication skills and dedication. Furthermore, the Spirit of Kokoda Values; Courage, Endurance Mateship & Sacrifice.

