Many students who attend Fowler Road have pressing needs in the basic literacy and numeracy areas. While this remains the major focus of our work, HSIE frequently provides a framework within which these needs can be met. As well, HSIE is an important area of learning in its own right.

HSIE provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge and understandings about people and their social and physical environment in each of the four strands:

- Change and Continuity
- Cultures
- Environments and
- Social Systems and Structures.

The syllabus Aims and Objectives are very relevant to the needs of the students at Fowler Road, particularly those relating to the development of:

- positive attitudes towards themselves and others;
- positive attitudes towards their own culture and the culture of others;
- positive attitudes towards social justice.

To implement the syllabus requirements, teachers frequently select HSIE-based themes to draw together work done across all the KLAs for the term. These might include the following.

- Change and Continuity – History of Transport, British Colonisation of Australia, Famous Australians, Sporting Events, About Me
- Cultures – Ancient Egypt, Myths and Legends, Aboriginal Australia, Celebrations
- Environments – Natural and Man-made Disasters, Australia – You're Standing in it! My World
- Social Systems and Structures – Belonging, My Community, Ancient Civilisations.

Where term themes are based on other KLAs, HSIE lessons are aligned to the topic, for example, a 'Space' theme would include consideration of international competition and co-operation, the various agencies involved in space exploration, the history of space discoveries, the changes in space technology and environments in space.

On a whole-school level, we promote awareness, knowledge and understandings of our interactions with each other and with our environment through:

- providing leadership opportunities for students as peer tutors and 'first mate' for new students
- caring for our school environment by recycling, gardening and cleaning up, exploring and celebrating the heritage of each student and staff member
- cooking and eating foods from a wide variety of countries
- encouraging students to participate responsibly in class meetings and class decision-making
- celebrating each student's time at Fowler Road with a photo history of their school experiences.