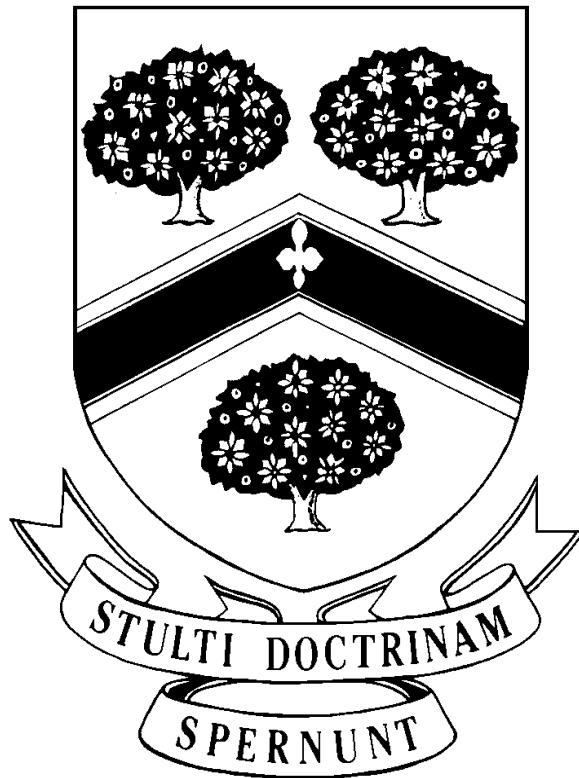


# **THORNTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

**A SPECIALIST SPORTS, SCIENCE & APPLIED LEARNING  
TRUST SCHOOL**



FOUNDED 1673

## **POLICY FOR TEACHING OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

REVIEWED: DECEMBER 2009

## **POLICY FOR TEACHING OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Indoctrination has no part to play in the education of students at Thornton Grammar School.

The Governing Body seeks to promote learning for effective citizenship as one of the major purposes of education. A recognition that many important areas of study involve issues on which individuals or groups hold differing positions will assist in the achievement of this purpose.

In considering these issues, the student shall have the right:

- To study any controversial issue which has political, economic, moral, religious or social significance and is germane to the objectives of the course. Controversial issues to be discussed in class must be presented on a level consistent with the knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students in class.
- To study, and form and express opinions on, controversial issues in an atmosphere of freedom without fear of ridicule or discrimination, and without jeopardizing their position in the school: diversity of opinion and freedom of expression are to be encouraged. However, this must not be misconstrued as permitting abuse towards, attacks on the rights of, or diminution of the dignity accorded to, other individuals or groups. There is no mandate here for the promotion of intolerance on any grounds other than intolerance itself.

The role of the teacher in the presentation of controversial issues is vitally important. All sides of the issues should be presented to students in a dispassionate manner. The goal is that students be taught to think clearly on all matters of importance and make their own decisions in the light of all material that has been presented or can be secured on the issues. **The opinions, biases or prejudices of a teacher must never be forced on students under any circumstances.**

It is acknowledged that in some areas of study controversial issues often have to be set in an unfamiliar anthropological or historical context. In these cases the role of the teacher is to help students come to a clear understanding of the issue in that context.

### **Confidentiality:**

Opportunities may arise which result in disclosure. The welfare of the child should be maintained as the focus and appropriate actions taken to pass on the information to relevant personnel, usually the Named Person, HOY, parents and other relevant agencies. All adults and pupils should understand that information shared may need to be acted upon, if that information puts the child or another person at serious risk. (Refer to Behaviour policy, Policy for Sex Education, Policy for Drugs Education).

Policy Name: TEACHING OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.DOC

Person Responsible: CRS

Date last revised: December 2009