













Ethical understanding learning continuum


Prep–Year 10 Australian Curriculum general capabilities

This resource provides a sequence of learning for Ethical understanding from the Australian Curriculum general capabilities. It can be used to support planning for students in Prep–Year 10.

Learning area icons indicate where Ethical understanding can be developed or applied in the content descriptions. However, Ethical understanding can support and deepen student learning in all eight learning areas and teachers are able to develop students' use of the capability in learning areas where an icon is not provided.

Sub-element	Level 1 (Prep)	Level 2 (Years 1–2)	Level 3 (Years 3–4)	Level 4 (Years 5–6)	Level 5 (Years 7–8)	Level 6 (Years 9–10)
Understanding ethical concepts and perspectives						
Explore ethical concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify examples of ethical concepts such as right and wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify ethical concepts, such as honesty and fairness, and describe actions and behaviours associated with these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify ethical concepts, such as respect and tolerance, and describe how a situation or context affects actions and behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and describe ethical concepts, such as truth and justice, and explain how perspectives may vary according to the situation or context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse the similarities and differences between ethical concepts, such as integrity, loyalty and equality, in a range of situations and contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluate the consistency in meaning of ethical concepts, such as trust, freedom and rights and responsibilities, in a range of situations and contexts
Examine values, rights and responsibilities, and ethical norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify examples of values, rights and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify values, rights and responsibilities, and shared expectations, and explain why they are important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how values, rights and responsibilities, and shared expectations influence responses and decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how the relationships between values, rights and responsibilities, and ethical norms influence responses and decisions related to ethical issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the relationship between the role of individual and community values, rights and responsibilities, and ethical norms when responding to ethical issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the importance of values, rights and responsibilities when reaching a position on an ethical issue, and evaluate their role in challenging and defending ethical norms
Recognise influences on ethical behaviour and perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify examples of how emotions affect behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify how emotions and behaviour interact, and share examples of when they match and when they do not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how emotions can affect behaviour and decision-making in different situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how habits and behaviour shape character and examine how they inform ethical perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how different traits such as honesty, trust, courage and selfishness interact with responsibilities or duties to determine ethically appropriate responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore and analyse examples of the tensions between conflicting positions on issues of personal, social and global importance
Responding to ethical issues						
Explore ethical perspectives and frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify examples of different consequences and explain how these might affect the way people behave or act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the similarities and differences between values such as caring, compassion and empathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the differences and connections between rights and responsibilities, and care and respect, and how these affect decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how ethical frameworks that use consequences, virtues and duties guide ethical decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how different ethical frameworks support developing ethical perspectives and inform ethical decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse and utilise different ethical frameworks when responding to ethical issues and making ethical decisions

Explore ethical issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify different ethical problems or issues from examples such as stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify different perspectives and approaches when discussing ethical issues from a given example 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use examples to describe how people may have different values and perspectives that they apply to an ethical issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how ethical perspectives or approaches to ethical issues may vary in different situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse the relationships between values, ethical perspectives and ethical frameworks when responding to ethical issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply knowledge of ethical concepts, values, perspectives and frameworks when responding to ethical issues
						
Making and reflecting on ethical decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the links between people's wants and needs and their choices and actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify examples of how perspectives and values influence decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe decision-making processes with reference to ethical perspectives and values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider alternative ethical responses to an issue when making and reflecting on ethical decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider how values and beliefs influence approaches to ethical issues, and analyse how these affect outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse biases when applying ethical concepts, values and ethical frameworks, in order to explore and evaluate ethical decisions
						

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