**Capability 7:**

**Intercultural Understanding**

Intercultural understanding is developed as one learns to value their own cultures, languages and beliefs and those of others.

An understanding of how personal, group and national identities are shaped and the variable and changing nature of culture is developed. The capability involves students in learning about and engaging with diverse cultures

in ways that recognise commonalities and differences, create connections with others and cultivate mutual respect.

**Intercultural understanding is organised into 3 elements:**

* **Recognising culture and developing respect**
* **Interacting and empathising with others**
* **Reflecting on intercultural experiences and taking responsibility**

**Recognising culture and developing respect**

**This element involves:**

* **identifying the characteristics of one’s own and others’ cultural identity**
* **observing the characteristics of one’s own and others’ cultural identity**
* **describing the characteristics of one’s own and others’ cultural identity**
* **analysing the characteristics of one’s own and others’ cultural identity**

**This includes:**

* **group membership**
* **traditions and customs**
* **ways of doing things**
* **values**
* **attitudes**
* **obligations**
* **roles**
* **religious beliefs and ways of thinking**

**Activity**

Think about your family, friendship group,

a club or someone who is from a different cultural background. With your Case Manager, teacher or another person or group, discuss the above points and explain how your perspective or cultural background is different from this person or people.

**You need to be able to:**

* **explore new ideas and experiences related to specific cultural groups**
* **compare your knowledge and experiences with those of others**
* **learn to recognise commonalities**
* **acknowledge differences**
* **recognise the need to reflect on, and try to understand, differences**

**You should explore and learn that:**

* **strong intercultural relationships are built on mutual respect between people, communities and countries**
* **respect is based on recognising that everyone is important and must be treated with dignity**
* **includes recognising and appreciating differences between people**
* **respecting another person’s point of view and their human rights**



**Capability 7: Intercultural Understanding**

**Interacting and empathising with others**

**This element involves:**

* **developing skills to relate to and move between cultures**
* **encouraging flexibility, adaptability and willingness to try new cultural experiences**
* **developing empathy by imagining other people’s perspectives and experiences**

**Reflecting on intercultural experiences and taking responsibility**

**This element involves:**

* **using reflection to better understand the actions of individuals and groups**
* **reflecting on how specific situations are shaped by culture**
* **identifying your cultural influences and reflect on your response to coming into contact or experiencing other cultures**
* **learning to ‘stand between cultures’ to see both points of view**
* **learning to reflect on and take responsibility for your own behaviours**
* **learning to respect the human rights of others**