

The New National Curriculum from September 2014

The new national curriculum will be taught in all maintained primary and secondary schools from September 2014

The new national curriculum covers all subjects and key stages, except for key stage 4 English, mathematics and science which will be subject to a full public consultation before being finalised to align with new GCSEs in these subjects.

All maintained primary and secondary schools must teach this national curriculum to all year groups from September 2014. The exceptions to this are:

- Pupils in year 2 and year 6 in 2014/15, who will be taught this national curriculum in all subjects except English, mathematics and science, where they will follow the current national curriculum. This is because these pupils will be the last group to sit the current key stage 1 assessment and key stage 2 tests.
-
- Pupils in years 10 and 11 in 2014/15, who will be taught the new national curriculum in all subjects except English, mathematics and science programmes of study, where they will study the current key stage 4 programmes of study. The new national curriculum in English, mathematics and science will be introduced from 2015, alongside reformed GCSEs in these subjects. Pupils will sit the first exams for new GCSEs in English language, English literature and mathematics in summer 2017, and in other subjects to follow.

Assessment

Level descriptors of the national curriculum will be removed and not replaced.

The first new key stage 2 tests in English, mathematics and science, based on the new national curriculum, will be sat by pupils for the first time in the summer of 2016.

The way forward

The government believes that headteachers and their staff are best-placed to decide what training and resources are needed to support excellent teaching of the new curriculum in their schools. As a result, there will be no central, national roll-out of identical training packages.

Curriculum design

The government funds a number of programmes which provide subject-specific support to teachers.

Mathematics

The National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCETM) has a range of support available for schools to prepare for the mathematics programmes of study. Registration is free.

Science

The National STEM Centre has developed new materials for teaching the primary science programmes of study. The National Science Learning Centre has a wide range of resources available and more materials to support teaching of the new science curriculum will be available soon. Again, registration is free.

Computing

The government is providing an additional £2 million funding for the creation of new master computer teachers and this network is currently being developed across the country.

In addition, the DfE have facilitated a series of 'expert subject groups' made up of members of teaching schools, subject associations and Higher Education Institutions. They have been looking at the challenges posed by the new curriculum, the materials currently out there to support teachers, and the key gaps in materials. These groups have started to produce their own guidance for schools as they prepare to deliver the new curriculum.

The key dates for curriculum and qualifications reform are on the DfE need to know timeline.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/toolsandinitiatives/cuttingburdens/b00216133/need-to-know-schools/mandatory>

The curriculum contains the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects, at all key stages, except key stage 4 English, mathematics and science, which will follow after a public consultation on the draft programmes of study.

Figure 1 - Structure of the national curriculum

	Key stage 1	Key stage 2	Key stage 3	Key stage 4
Age	5-7	7-11	11-14	14-16
Year groups	1-2	3-6	7-9	10-11
CORE SUBJECTS				
English	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓	✓	✓
FOUNDATION SUBJECTS				
Art and design	✓	✓	✓	
Citizenship			✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design and technology	✓	✓	✓	
Languages		✓	✓	
Geography	✓	✓	✓	
History	✓	✓	✓	
Music	✓	✓	✓	
Physical education	✓	✓	✓	✓

All schools are also required to teach religious education at all key stages. Secondary schools must provide sex and relationship education.

Figure 2 - Statutory teaching of religious education and sex and relationship education

	Key stage 1	Key stage 2	Key stage 3	Key stage 4
Age	5-7	7-11	11-14	14-16
Year groups	1-2	3-6	7-9	10-11
Religious education	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sex and relationship education			✓	✓

Key stage 4 entitlement areas

The arts (comprising art and design, music, dance, drama and media arts), design and technology, the humanities (comprising geography and history) and modern foreign language are not compulsory national curriculum subjects after the age of 14, but all pupils in maintained schools have a statutory entitlement to be able to study a subject in each of those 4 areas.

The statutory requirements in relation to the entitlement areas are:

- ³⁵/₁₇ schools must provide access to a minimum of 1 course in each of the 4 entitlement areas
- ³⁵/₁₇ schools must provide the opportunity for pupils to take a course in all 4 areas, should they wish to do so
- ³⁵/₁₇ a course that meets the entitlement requirements must give pupils the opportunity to obtain an approved qualification.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statutory-guidance-schools#national-curriculum-from-september-2014>