

The Australian National Curriculum K- 12.

“K” refers to the year before Year 1, known variously as Kindergarten in NSW / ACT, Prep in Vic / Qld / Tas, Pre-primary in WA, Transition in NT and Reception in SA.

In 2008 all Australian governments agreed that a quality education for all young Australians is critical to maintaining Australia's productivity and quality of life. They agreed that a national curriculum would play a key role in delivering quality education and committed to the development of a K–12 national curriculum, initially in the areas of English, mathematics, science and history.

It is widely accepted that Australia should have one curriculum for school students, rather than the eight different arrangements that exist at the moment. The commitment to develop an Australian Curriculum means that:

1. The individual and combined efforts of states and territories can focus on how students' learning can be improved to achieve the national goals, regardless of individual circumstances or school location.
2. Greater attention can be devoted to equipping young Australians with those skills, knowledge and capabilities necessary to enable them to effectively engage with and prosper in society, compete in a globalised world and thrive in the information-rich workplaces of the future.
3. High-quality resources can be developed more efficiently and made available around the country.
4. There will be greater consistency for the country's increasingly mobile student and teacher population.

What young people should be taught and the quality of learning that is expected of them will be made clear in the Australian Curriculum. At the same time, it will provide flexibility for teachers and schools to build on student learning and interest.

Whilst the Australian Curriculum will outline the scope of what is to be learned, it will be teachers in classrooms who will make decisions about how best to organise learning, the contexts for learning and the depth of learning that will be pursued for each child in their class.

The Australian Curriculum also pays attention to how 10 general capabilities and three cross-curriculum dimensions (listed below) contribute to, and can be developed through, teaching in each learning area.

The 10 general capabilities are:

- literacy
- numeracy
- information communication technology
- thinking skills
- ethical behaviour
- creativity
- self-management
- teamwork
- intercultural understanding
- social competence.

The three cross-curriculum dimensions are:

- Indigenous history and culture
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- Sustainability.

The draft and final form of the Australian Curriculum will be published online. This allows flexibility in how people use and organise the curriculum. It will also allow all Australians to see what is being taught in schools across the nation.

Phase One drafts have been released for:

English
Maths
Science
History

Phase Two drafts available 2011

Geography
LOTE
Arts

Phase Three drafts available 2013

Health and Physical Education
Information and Communication Technology
Design and Technology
Business Studies
Civics and Citizenship

The K-10 achievement standards will describe achievement that aligns with a C grade level within an A-E reporting scale. Descriptors will be developed for each of the five A-E reporting levels. This is the system currently being used in Victorian schools.

Consultation on P-10 Phase One studies finishes on May 30. The final versions will be published in August. The consultation period for the Years 11-12 draft Phase One studies is from May 14 to July 30 and the final versions will be published in September-October.

In 2011 Victorian government schools can opt into a trial of the P-10 Phase One studies. All schools will be expected to teach the national P-10 Phase One curriculum in 2012. They will continue with the VELS curriculum in the other curriculum areas.

<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Documents>

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