



THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

An overview for parents

My child and the Australian Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum is designed to teach students what it takes to be confident and creative individuals and become active and informed citizens. It sets the goal for what all students should learn as they progress through their school life – wherever they live in Australia and whatever school they attend.



What are the learning areas of the Australian Curriculum?

From the first year of schooling to Year 10, students develop knowledge and skills in eight learning areas:

- ▶ English
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- ▶ Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)
- ▶ The Arts
- ▶ Technologies
- ▶ Languages

From Foundation to Year 10

In the early years, priority is given to literacy and numeracy development as the foundations for further learning. As students make their way through the primary years, they focus more on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all eight learning areas.



In secondary schooling, students are taught by specialist teachers. Towards Year 10, the curriculum is designed so students develop skills for civic, social and economic participation. Students also have opportunities to make choices about their learning and to specialise in areas of interest.

The curriculum assists students to consider pathways for study in senior secondary schooling from a range of academic and vocational options.



How is the Australian Curriculum organised?

There are three dimensions in the Australian Curriculum:

- learning areas
- general capabilities
- cross-curriculum priorities.



1 Learning areas

The Australian Curriculum is organised into learning areas and subjects. Some learning areas bring a number of subjects together: Humanities and Social Sciences includes History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business; The Arts includes Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts; Technologies includes Design and Technologies and Digital Technologies. There is also a choice of 15 Languages.

Learning areas contain content descriptions that detail knowledge, understanding and skills to be taught each year or across a band of years. These content descriptions are accompanied by achievement standards that describe what students will know and will be able to do as a result of teaching and learning in the classroom.

2 General capabilities

General capabilities are included in the content of the learning areas. These are the skills and abilities intended to help prepare young Australians to learn, live and work in the 21st century. The Australian Curriculum has seven general capabilities:

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|  Literacy |  Critical and Creative Thinking |
|  Numeracy |  Personal and Social Capability |
|  Information and Communication |  Ethical Understanding |
|  Technology (ICT) Capability |  Intercultural Understanding |

3 Cross-curriculum priorities

In a similar way, there are three priorities critical to Australia's future:

-  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Histories and Culture
-  Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia
-  Sustainability

They build across the curriculum and allow students to connect the content of learning areas.

Preparing students for 21st century living

Can schools use the Australian Curriculum to support my child's needs?

Every student is unique, with different needs and interests. Teachers use the curriculum to plan in ways that respond to those needs and interests. The Australian Curriculum is flexible, allowing schools and teachers to personalise student learning.

The [Australian Curriculum website](#) gives advice on using the curriculum to meet the needs of students with disability; gifted and talented students; and students for whom English is an additional language or dialect.

Talk to your child's teacher for more information.



Do all states and territories teach the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum has been agreed to, and is in the process of, being implemented in all states and territories. Some states or territories may make adjustments to the Australian Curriculum before their schools use it.

Talk to your school for more information.

Where can I find more information?

Find more information about the Australian Curriculum on the 'Parents' page of the [Australian Curriculum website](#), where you can:

- ▶ [download fact sheets and brochures](#), which give more detailed information about the Australian Curriculum in the first year of school (Foundation), Years 1–2, Years 3–4, Years 5–6, Years 7–8, Years 9–10
- ▶ [find answers to frequently asked questions](#)

- ▶ see links that help you find information about:
 - [samples of student work](#)
 - [student diversity](#)
 - [learning areas or subjects](#)
 - [general capabilities](#)
 - [cross-curriculum priorities](#)
 - [the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy \(NAPLAN\)](#) and its relationship to the Australian Curriculum
 - [implementation of the Australian Curriculum in states in territories](#)



Valuable information for teachers & parents

