

Australian Curriculum

Fact sheet for parents



A new era in education

The Australian Curriculum was created by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) with input from some of Queensland's leading education experts.

Queensland's state, Catholic and independent schooling sectors agreed to a staged implementation of the Australian Curriculum in Queensland schools, outlined on the Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA) website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/20733.html.

Implementation began with the introduction of English, Mathematics and Science in 2012, followed by History in 2013 and Geography in 2014.

Full implementation of the F(Prep) – Year 10 Australian Curriculum is expected in Queensland schools by the end of 2016.

What are the benefits?

This is an exciting time because an Australian curriculum gives teachers and students more consistent standards in all schools nationwide.

It sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and capabilities important for all students and identifies what all school students should learn as they progress through school. This means young people across Australia will have a consistent curriculum regardless of where they live in the country.

How will the Australian Curriculum review affect me?

In January 2014, the Federal Government announced a review of the Australian Curriculum. The review will evaluate the robustness, independence and balance of the Australian Curriculum and will help to ensure improved student outcomes. For more information about the Australian Curriculum review, visit Students First at www.studentsfirst.gov.au/review-australian-curriculum.



Photography: Jason Henry



When I visit the Australian Curriculum website, it says some of the curriculum areas are awaiting final endorsement.

This is correct. Schools are now able to access curriculum developed for The Arts, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Technologies and Health and Physical Education and incorporate these Australian Curriculum learning areas/subjects in to their programs. Queensland schools will continue to follow existing implementation timelines.

How is the Australian Curriculum structured?

Core learning

The Australian Curriculum learning areas include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences, incorporating History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship (from Year 3) and Economics and Business (from Year 5)
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts, incorporating Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts
- Technologies.

In each of the learning areas, content descriptions specify what students should be taught and the achievement standards set out the depth of understanding and sophistication of skill expected of students at points in their schooling.

General capabilities

General capabilities encompass the skills, behaviours and dispositions that students need to develop and apply to content knowledge.

They help young people become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The seven General capabilities are:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Information and communication technology (ICT) capability
- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Personal and social capability
- Intercultural understanding.

Cross-curriculum priorities

Incorporated within each of the learning areas are three cross-curriculum priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- Sustainability.

Cross curriculum priorities are embedded in the content descriptions and have a strong but varying presence depending on their relevance to the learning area.

Get involved

Students are more likely to be successful when their parents and families are engaged in their education.

A wide range of research has shown that when parents are engaged, their children:

- attend school more regularly
- are better behaved
- have better academic outcomes
- have a greater sense of how to be successful in school
- are more likely to graduate and go on to post-secondary education.

Parents and carers can support their child's education by familiarising themselves with the Australian Curriculum at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au to understand what their child is learning at each stage of their schooling.

Helpful tips and resources for parents and carers to support their child's education can be found on the Department's parents and carers page at www.education.qld.gov.au/parents or by viewing the Parent and community engagement framework at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/parent-community-engagement-framework/.