

Fact sheet for parents and carers

Why did we have a Curriculum Review?

In May 2018, the NSW Government announced the launch of the NSW Curriculum Review (the Review). This was the first comprehensive review of the NSW primary and secondary curriculum since 1989, and aimed to equip students to continue to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century.

Parents and carers were invited to be part of the Review through consultation opportunities in 2018 and 2019. Feedback from parents and carers informed the shape of the final recommendations of the Review.

The publication of the NSW Curriculum Review final report indicates the completion of the review process and signals the commencement of activities to achieve curriculum reform.

What are the recommendations of the Review?

The Curriculum Review includes 24 recommendations that address the following areas:

The content and structure of new syllabuses

- New syllabuses will prioritise core knowledge, understanding and skills, giving teachers time to focus on depth of learning.
- The structure of the new syllabuses will provide improved information to parents about their child's progress and the next steps in their learning.

A new NSW school curriculum

Every student prepared and ready for their future



Building strong foundations for learning in the early, middle and senior years of schooling

- English and Mathematics will be prioritised in the early years.
- Clear standards will be set in mandated subjects for students to achieve by the completion of their schooling.
- HSC subjects will be organised under new learning areas. Future HSC subjects will integrate theory and application of knowledge.

The design of the new curriculum will take into account the diversity of learners in NSW.

How will a focus on building strong foundations for learning benefit my child?

Early years

The early years of school are important in establishing foundations for future learning success, particularly the development of oral language, reading and writing skills, and mathematical knowledge and skills.

Middle years

In the middle years of school, priority will be given to providing every student with challenging learning material appropriate to their current level of knowledge and skills. This means that students who need more time to master curriculum content will have it, and students who are ready to move on more quickly can do so.

The new curriculum will set clear standards for achievement in mandated subjects by the completion of schooling. It will provide teachers and parents/carers with an improved way of monitoring students' long-term progress which will make it easier to know if students are on track with their learning.

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Senior years

In the later years of school, each subject will build solid theoretical foundations, provide opportunities to transfer and apply knowledge, and develop skills in the practical application of subject learning. This will help to ensure that your child leaves school better prepared for further learning, life and the workforce.

Pathways through senior school to post-school destinations, like university, TAFE or the workforce, will be strengthened through the introduction of new learning areas, which will act as a focal point for schools' careers advice and relationships with businesses and tertiary providers.

What are the NSW Government priorities for reform?

The NSW Government is prioritising reform with an ambitious timeframe:

- Building strong foundations for future learning by 2022 with new English and Mathematics curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 2
- More time for teaching by 2022 by reducing the hours teachers spend on extracurricular topics and issues and compliance requirements
- Strengthening post-school pathways by 2022 with new learning areas for Year 11 and 12 that clearly link learning to future employment and study options
- A new curriculum from 2024 with new syllabuses focused on what is essential to know and do in early and middle years of schooling, and senior years key learning areas