



PRIMARY MATTERS

ISSUE 10, November 2016

Welcome to the final edition of **Primary Matters for 2016**. This newsletter provides information about ACARA's projects for primary schools and all who are interested in the Australian Curriculum for primary education across Australia.

NEW STAFF MATTERS

Danielle Cavanagh is ACARA's new Curriculum Specialist, General Capabilities, and the latest primary education specialist to join the ACARA Curriculum Team. She comes to ACARA from the humid north, having been born and raised in Darwin.

During the last 18 years, Danielle has worked across a range of primary school settings in the Northern Territory. She has taught at all levels of primary school and has held a variety of roles, including curriculum leader, upper primary coordinator and deputy principal. She also worked as an education officer for the Catholic Education Office NT, helping primary schools to implement the Australian Curriculum.



Primary Matters interviews Danielle

Your position is Curriculum Specialist, General Capabilities. What are general capabilities?

General capabilities describe one of the key components of the three dimensions of the Australian Curriculum. They are skills and dispositions that are critical for young Australians to develop as they grow up. Within the Australian Curriculum, the general capabilities are tagged across learning areas by icons:



Literacy



Numeracy



Critical and
Creative
Thinking



ICT
Capability



Personal and
Social
Capability



Ethical
Understanding



Intercultural
Understanding

How do the general capabilities impact on teaching and learning?

Teachers use the general capabilities to create innovative and engaging programs aligned to the Australian Curriculum as well as to plan for students with diverse learning needs. The ['Student diversity' section](#) of the Australian Curriculum website provides guidelines on how teachers can personalise learning for students with disability, or gifted and talented students, or students for whom English is an additional language or dialect.

Does ACARA provide support on the use of general capabilities?

Of course! Each learning area section of the Australian Curriculum website has general capabilities' icons next to the content descriptions and elaborations. These icons indicate to teachers which general capability may be incorporated in the learning and teaching of content.

TEACHER MATTERS

The Resource Portal

The Australian Curriculum: Resources portal currently contains resources for Mathematics, STEM, as well as work samples for a range of learning areas, with new items added to the portal regularly. In recent months, the Mathematics proficiencies and a range of work samples have been published on the portal to support teachers in implementing the Australian Curriculum.

Mathematics Proficiencies

The Mathematics Proficiencies are an integral part of the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. The proficiency strands of understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning reinforce how content is explored and developed. Recently the Mathematics Proficiencies samples have been uploaded onto the resource portal, illustrating the proficiencies across a range of year levels in a range of tasks.

To support teachers and schools, we have also published work samples, annotations and video clips, explaining how to embed the proficiencies in practice. Each sample includes a description of the task undertaken and an annotated work sample, which illustrate where the proficiencies are evident. The samples can be viewed for all the proficiencies, or a single proficiency may be selected and the annotations for that aspect alone displayed.

Work Samples

The [‘Work samples’ section](#) of the resource portal enables teachers and parents to:

Work sample 1 Animation: Endangered animals



- search for a portfolio of student work
- view annotated work samples demonstrating achievement at, above and below the achievement standard
- compare two like work samples at different levels
- move between different portfolios and print portfolios of student work.

You can filter ‘Work samples’ section’s content by using the search tool on the landing page, which will help you to select resource type, year/band level and search via keywords.

Please note: Work samples for English, Mathematics, Science, and History can be found within the learning area resources on the Australian Curriculum website.



FEEDBACK MATTERS

Let us know how our website works for you

We have released an [online survey](#) for the Australian Curriculum website users. Feedback from all stakeholders is vital in supporting us to improve the website experience.

The survey only takes 10 minutes to complete – please let us know what you think!

Do you have something to share?

Inspiring work is going on in schools and classrooms around the country. Primary Matters is an ideal space to demonstrate and celebrate your success with others. If you have something you wish to share, please contact **Danielle Cavanagh**, danielle.cavanagh@acara.edu.au