

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities?

General capabilities within the Australian Curriculum are a **set of knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions** that can be developed through all the learning areas.

The seven general capabilities in the Australian Curriculum are:

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

The three cross-curriculum priorities in the Australian Curriculum provide students with tools to better understand their world. The priorities are fitted with content to simultaneously develop knowledge, understanding and skills relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia, and Sustainability.

For more information go to the general capabilities section on the Australian Curriculum website at: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au.

Further information can be found on the cross-curriculum priorities home page on the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au.

Is homework part of the Australian Curriculum/how much homework should my child be doing?

Decisions about homework are made by state and territory curriculum and school authorities and schools. Please contact your child's school for more information.

How does the Australian Curriculum work in multi- grade classes?

In all classrooms teachers make adjustments to the learning program to accommodate the range of students in the group. In multi-grade settings, teachers will choose content from the whole curriculum to design learning programs that address each student's learning needs.

How do teachers use the Australian Curriculum to determine A-E grades?

Teachers use the Australian Curriculum to determine the content that students will learn. State and territory curriculum and school authorities and sometimes individual schools make decisions about how teachers give A-E grades. Contact your child's school to find out more.

Do all children in Australia learn the same things, now that we have an Australian Curriculum?

All Australian states and territories have joined with the Australian Government to endorse the Australian Curriculum. States, territories and schools may include additional learning opportunities beyond those

provided by the Australian Curriculum. Decisions about the organisation and delivery of the curriculum are made by state and territory curriculum and school authorities.

What happens if my child is having difficulty with some of the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum has been designed to meet the learning needs of all students and to provide opportunities for all students to engage with the curriculum. Teachers make adjustments to classroom learning when students are experiencing difficulty with the curriculum. If you think your child is having difficulty with any aspect of the learning program you should contact your child's teacher and arrange to discuss your concerns.

Further information about how the Australian Curriculum supports students with different learning needs can be found at: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/studentdiversity/meeting-diverse-learning-needs>

How are the needs of high achieving/ gifted children met in the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum is designed to provide rigorous, relevant and engaging content for all learners. It includes advice to help teachers use the flexible design of the Australian Curriculum to provide challenging learning experiences for gifted and talented students.

Further information about how the Australian Curriculum supports gifted and talented students can be found at: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/studentdiversity/gifted-and-talented-students>

Does my child have to learn a language?

State and territory curriculum and school authorities make decisions about the way languages are taught in schools. Contact your child's school to find out more.

Further information about the Australian Curriculum: Languages can be found at: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble>

When will my child learn about technology in the Australian Curriculum?

ICT skills are developed in every learning area from first year of school to Year 10. The Australian Curriculum also includes the specific subjects of Design and Technologies, and Digital Technologies.

How should the Australian Curriculum be taught in schools?

State and territory curriculum and school authorities, and schools make decisions about how the Australian Curriculum is taught. The curriculum is designed to allow schools to develop teaching programs that meet the educational needs of their students. The best source of information about teaching practices your child will experience, is your child's own school.

If my child does not speak English at home will they be able to manage the curriculum?

For many students in Australian schools, English is not their first or only language. The Australian Curriculum includes resources and advice for teachers to identify the language needs of these students and ensure they are able to access the curriculum content, while they are developing proficiency in Standard Australian English.

What can I do at home to help my child at school?

The best place to get advice about supporting your child's particular learning needs, is your child's school. Parents and carers can support their child's education by familiarising themselves with the Australian Curriculum to gain a general understanding of what their child is learning at each stage of their schooling.

Exploring this website will provide information about the progression of learning throughout the stages of schooling.

What should I do if some subjects are not offered at my child's school?

Schools determine the subjects and courses they can offer. Any questions associated with subject choice for individual students should be discussed with the school, who will provide guidance about pathways of study and access to subjects.

How will I know if my child is progressing at the expected rate?

All schools are required to provide parents with a formal progress report twice a year and many invite parents to interviews to discuss student progress.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will complete NAPLAN assessments. NAPLAN reports compare a student's progress to the average Australian student in the same year level.

The best source of information about a student's progress is the teacher. Parents should speak to the teacher about any aspect of their child's progress.

What are the NAPLAN tests?

Students in all states and territories across Australia undertake NAPLAN assessment of literacy and numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

More information about NAPLAN can be found at: <http://www.nap.edu.au/>

Does my child have to follow the Australian Curriculum if I school them at home?

Requirements for home schooling are set by states and territories. Parents or carers considering home schooling should contact the education department in their state or territory.

Where can I find the meaning for terms I don't understand in the Australian Curriculum?

Each learning area has a glossary which defines the terms relevant to that area. The links to each glossary can be found on the landing page of each learning area.