

## New features of the Australian Curriculum website v7.0

The development of the Australian Curriculum has created considerable interest around the world – and with good reason.

The online viewing and navigation of the curriculum sets the Australian Curriculum apart from previous national and international curriculum endeavours. The web-based Australian Curriculum is dynamic and can be easily updated when required and the online platform allows for continual design development and enhancements, improving the functionality for teachers who are implementing the curriculum.

ACARA released version 7 of the Australian Curriculum website on 21 July 2014.

As a result of consultation with teachers in states and territories we have added some interesting features to the new version of the website.

### Homepage

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Australian Curriculum website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ACARA logo and menu items for 'F-10 Curriculum', 'Senior Secondary Curriculum', and 'Student Diversity'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large image of a teacher and a student looking at a laptop. Below the image, the text reads: 'The Australian Curriculum sets consistent national standards to improve learning outcomes for all young Australians. It sets out, through content descriptions and achievement standards, what students should be taught and achieve, as they progress through school. It is the base for future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. ACARA develops the Australian Curriculum through rigorous, consultative national processes.'

Below the main content, there are three columns of information:

- Home**: A section with a 'Home' link and a 'Welcome to our new website!' message. It thanks users for feedback and lists new features like 'What's New', filtering curriculum elements, and targeted feedback.
- F-10 Curriculum**: A section with a link to 'F-10 Curriculum' and a brief description of the curriculum for young Australians.
- Senior Secondary Curriculum**: A section with a link to 'Senior Secondary Curriculum' and a brief description of subjects across English, mathematics, science, history, and geography.
- Student Diversity**: A section with a link to 'Student Diversity' and a brief description of the curriculum's focus on excellence and equity for all students.

On the right side, there is a sidebar with the following sections:

- Help**: Includes links for 'User guide', 'Consultation', and 'Contact us'.
- What's new**: A section with a 'What's new' link and a 'Primary matters' sub-section. The 'Primary matters' section mentions a newsletter developed by the ACARA primary team.
- Feedback**: A section with a 'Feedback' link and instructions on how to provide feedback on the website.

- Part of the feedback we received from teachers was that it was difficult to find information and to know what had changed on the website. A “what’s new” section is now located on the homepage. This section provides users with the latest additions to the website so you are kept up to date.

- The new website categorises information by grouping similar information together. An example includes the Help section on the home page. This section contains useful information, including a user guide, video, version history and contact details.
- Teachers asked for the ability to download the curriculum in an editable word format. This feature has been added to the print download button located in the top right hand of the screen.
- To enable users to provide continual feedback on the website and ideas for improvement there is now a link on the home page. This will provide ongoing information to ACARA for further web enhancements.

## Learning area screen

The greatest changes have been made to the look and feel of the learning area pages. All curriculum information relating to a particular learning area can now be viewed on one screen.

The screenshot shows the Australian Curriculum website for Science. The top navigation bar includes 'F-10 Curriculum', 'Senior Secondary Curriculum', and 'Student Diversity'. A search bar is on the right. The main header is 'Science'. Below it, a navigation panel on the left allows users to filter the curriculum. A green arrow points to the 'Curriculum' tab. The main content area is divided into three columns: Foundation Year, Year 1, and Year 2. Each column contains a level description, content descriptions, and specific curriculum elements like 'Biological sciences', 'Chemical sciences', and 'Earth and space sciences'. A 'Print this page' button is visible in the top right corner.

- There is now a new navigation panel on the screen. This navigation is a filter enabling teachers to select various views of the subject. You can choose to turn curriculum elements such as content descriptions or achievement standards on or off. For example, you can choose to view only the achievement standards for a number of year levels across columns by applying specific filters.
- The ability to view by column, row or elaboration also assists in this filtering.

# Curriculum browser

The screenshot shows the Australian Curriculum browser interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'F-10 Curriculum', 'Senior Secondary Curriculum', and 'Student Diversity' dropdown menus, along with a search bar. Below this is a header 'Curriculum browser'. The main content area is titled 'Year 3' and is organized by subject: Science, History, and Geography. Each subject has a 'Level Description' and 'Content Descriptions'. The Science section includes 'Science Understanding' with sub-sections for Biological sciences, Chemical sciences, and Earth and space sciences. The History section includes 'History Content Descriptions' with a sub-section for 'Community and remembrance'. The Geography section includes 'Geographical Knowledge and Understanding' with sub-sections for 'The representation of Australia as states and territories...' and 'The location of Australia's neighbouring countries...'. On the left side, there are filter panels for 'Show/Hide Curriculum' (with checkboxes for Year level descriptions, Content descriptions, Achievement standards, and Icons), 'Subjects' (with checkboxes for English, Mathematics, Science, and History), 'Year levels' (with checkboxes for Year 1 through Year 10A), and 'General capabilities' (with checkboxes for Literacy, Numeracy, Information and communication technology capability, and Critical and creative thinking).

- One of the biggest changes to the AC website is the ability to view multiple subjects across a number of year levels so teachers can view connections across subjects. This new feature is part of the curriculum browser which is located under the F-10 drop down navigation menu. This will be a powerful feature which we believe teachers will find very useful.

## Tell us what you think

ACARA will continue to listen to stakeholder needs and develop the website to assist teachers to effectively manage the curriculum. Any feedback you have about this new version can be sent to [acfeedback@acara.edu.au](mailto:acfeedback@acara.edu.au).