

What makes the Australian Curriculum a world-class curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum is world class in the way it:

- has been developed
- is structured and organised
- is accessible to schools, teachers, students, parents and the broader community.

The way it has been developed

The commitment and resourcing by all Australian governments to design a world-class Australian Curriculum has allowed some of the best talent across the nation – teachers, academics and curriculum experts – to be involved in drafting the Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history.

Quality work on curriculum in states and territories, as well as that of leading nations, has been referred to during the development of the Australian Curriculum.

Extensive consultation has been undertaken and continues on a national scale to ensure that schools, educators and the community have the opportunity to contribute.

The way it is structured and organised

The Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history is organised with explicit descriptions of what is to be taught to students and what is expected of their learning at every year of schooling.

It identifies essential content that all students should be taught and ensures that there is time to pursue deep learning of that content. The Australian Curriculum also allows flexibility for schools and teachers to include local and topical content. Achievement standards have been set to ensure they are challenging and contribute to all students receiving a quality education.

The Australian Curriculum also pays attention to how 10 general capabilities and three cross-curriculum dimensions (listed below) contribute to, and can be developed through, teaching in each learning area.

The 10 general capabilities are:

- literacy
- numeracy
- information communication technology
- thinking skills
- ethical behaviour
- creativity
- self-management
- teamwork
- intercultural understanding
- social competence.

The three cross-curriculum dimensions are:

- Indigenous history and culture
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- Sustainability.

ACARA is developing continuums of knowledge, skills and understanding for each of the general capabilities and the cross-curriculum dimensions.

All continuums will be used to review the draft English, mathematics, science and history curriculum to ensure that there is strong and coherent inclusion of the general capabilities and cross-curriculum dimensions in the final curriculum. They will also be used to assist the writers of the Australian Curriculum in the other learning areas during future phases of development.

As the continuums are developed, ACARA will review their place in the documentation of the Australian Curriculum and seek advice from stakeholders as to how they might most usefully assist schools to develop their teaching and learning programs.

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Australian Curriculum

INFORMATION SHEET

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The way it can be accessed and used

Previously, curriculum has been published in hard copy form, and typically with separate booklets for each learning area. This has tended to reinforce notions of a static, two-dimensional, subject-centred curriculum.

The draft and final form of the Australian Curriculum will be published online. This allows flexibility in how people use and organise the curriculum. It will also allow all Australians to see what is being taught in schools across the nation.