

Recommendation for recognition of alternative curriculum framework

**Australian Montessori
National Curriculum**

Acknowledgement of Country

ACARA acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country and Place throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters, sky and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past and present.

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Recognition recommendation

The ACARA Alternative Curriculum Framework Recognition Process seeks to determine the extent to which a well-established alternative national curriculum framework can deliver educational outcomes for students comparable with those based on the Australian Curriculum (AC).

In the first instance, the process considers the extent to which the alternative national curriculum framework meets the principles and guidelines outlined in the *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* and the *Shape of the Australian Curriculum*, and how this curriculum framework will assist students in becoming successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The alternative national curriculum framework is then assessed on whether it provides for students to learn the curriculum content (knowledge, understanding and skills) and achieve the standards described in the relevant Australian Curriculum learning areas.

The assessment process involves direct comparisons being made between the Australian Curriculum and the alternative national curriculum framework at a minimum of 3 points across the Foundation to Year 10 range.

This recognition recommendation reports on the outcome of this assessment process and provides detail on the similarities and differences that exist between the curriculum content and achievement standards of the Australian Curriculum and the alternative national curriculum framework at the chosen comparison points. It acknowledges the reasons for these differences where appropriate and describes how differences are addressed.

Information about the assessment process is placed on the ACARA Recognition Register. This register reinforces the distinct roles played by ACARA and registration authorities. ACARA's role is to make the comparison between the alternative national curriculum framework and the Australian Curriculum according to the published recognition process.

Registration authorities are governed by state or territory legislation and have the role of registering schools. ACARA will provide its assessment of the comparability of alternative national curricula to registration authorities for information and consideration in their school registration processes.

Name of organisation:

Montessori Australia

Curriculum framework assessed: Australian Montessori National Curriculum (AMNC)

English

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Language Arts (English) – Year F

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Language Arts (English) – Years 1–3

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Language Arts (English) – Years 4–6

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Cognitive Development: Language Arts – Years 7–9

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Cognitive Development: Language Arts – Year 10

Mathematics

Introduction/Overview: Mathematics

Cosmic Education: A Curriculum for Children aged from Six to Twelve years

Curriculum Summary: Adolescents Aged Twelve to Seventeen

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Mathematics Plane 1 Learning program (Ages 3–6)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Mathematics Plane 2 Learning program (Ages 6–9)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Mathematics Plane 2 Learning program (Ages 9–12)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Mathematics Plane 3 Learning program (Ages 12–15)

Science

Science Foundation cross-curriculum priorities (CCPs) and general capabilities (GCs)

Science Years 1–2 CCPs and GCs

Science Years 4–6 CCPs and GCs

Science Years 7–9 CCPs and GCs

Science Year 10 CCPs and GCs

Science comparative AMNC–ACv9

Science Montessori Cycle 1 and 2 Science

Science Yr 1–3 Montessori 2nd Plane

Science Yr 4–6 Montessori 2nd Plane

Humanities and Social Sciences

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) comparative ACv9–AMNC Years F–6

HASS comparative ACv9–AMNC Years 7–10 Civics and Citizenship

HASS comparative ACv9–AMNC Years 7–10 History

HASS comparative ACv9–AMNC Years 7–10 Geography

HASS comparative ACv9–AMNC Years 7–10 Economics and Business

HASS Civics and Citizenship Years 7–9 CCPs and GCs

HASS Civics and Citizenship Year 10 CCPs and GCs

HASS Economics and Business Years 7–9 CCPs and GCs

HASS Economics and Business Year 10 CCPs and GCs

HASS Foundation CCPs and GCs

HASS Geography Years 7–9 CCPs and GCs

HASS Geography Year 10 CCPs and GCs

HASS History Years 7–9 CCPs and GCs

HASS History Year 10 CCPs and GCs

HASS Years 1–3 CCPs and GCs

HASS Years 4–6 CCPs and GCs

Health and Physical Education

Health and Physical Education (HPE) comparative AMNC–ACv9 Years F–10

HPE Foundation CCPs and GCs

HPE Years 1–3 CCPs and GCs

HPE Years 4–6 CCPs and GCs

HPE Years 7–9 CCPs and GCs

HPE Year 10 CCPs and GCs

F–10 overviews HPE

The Arts

Overview: Learning Programme from Birth to Age Six

Cosmic Education: A Curriculum for Children aged from Six to Twelve years

Curriculum Summary: Adolescents Aged Twelve to Eighteen

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Dance Plane 1 (Ages 3–6)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Dance Plane 2 (Ages 6–12)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Dance Plane 3 (Ages 12–18)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Drama Plane 1 (Ages 3–6)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Drama Plane 2 (Ages 6–12)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Drama Plane 3 (Ages 12–18)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Media Arts Plane 1 (Ages 3–6)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Media Arts Plane 2 (Ages 6–12)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Media Arts Plane 3 (Ages 12–18)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Music Plane 1 (Ages 3–6)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Music Plane 2 (Ages 6–12)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Music Plane 3 (Ages 12–18)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Visual Arts Plane 1 (Ages 3–6)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Visual Arts Plane 2 (Ages 6–12)

Australian Montessori National Curriculum Visual Arts Plane 3 (Ages 12–18)

Learning areas and year levels included in this recognition

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts

Comparison stages

End Year 2 (Plane 1: Ages 3–6); Year 6 (Plane 2: Ages 6–12), End Year 10 (Plane 3: Ages 12–18).

General comparison between the Australian Curriculum and the AMNC

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum (AMNC) and the Australian Curriculum serve different functions and that these functions need to be considered when making judgements about comparability.

The Australian Curriculum sets out what is to be taught (described in content descriptions), and what students should learn and the quality of learning expected of them (described in achievement standards).

To make a judgement about whether the AMNC provides for students to learn the curriculum content (knowledge, understanding and skills) and achieve the standards described in the relevant Australian Curriculum learning areas, state and territory registration authorities may need to seek additional information from the individual school implementing the AMNC.

Notwithstanding this qualification, the Recognition Committee considers that the AMNC **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, and The Arts.

As the AMNC does not include a Technologies equivalent learning area, schools should teach the Australian Curriculum: Technologies (or local curriculum) in conjunction with Montessori guidelines and support materials.. Given that in Montessori schools Digital Technologies content will typically be introduced to students later than it is presented in the Australian Curriculum, the expectation is that students should be able to demonstrate achievement of the Year 8 achievement standard by the end of Year 10.

Montessori Australia did not seek recognition for Languages.

Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration

The Recognition Committee considers that the AMNC submitted for assessment has capacity to guide learning that reflects the *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration*, specifically the expectations described within the second goal.

Shape of the Australian Curriculum Version 5.0 June 2020

The Recognition Committee considers that the AMNC submitted for assessment meets the requirements of *The Shape of the Australian Curriculum* Version 5.0 paper and provides a generally comparable entitlement to the Australian Curriculum, Version 9.0 content descriptions and achievement standards.

English

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum submitted for assessment **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum: English Version 9.0.

Mathematics

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum submitted for assessment **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics Version 9.0.

Science

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum submitted for assessment **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum: Science Version 9.0.

Humanities and Social Sciences

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum submitted for assessment **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences Version 9.0 for:

- F–6 HASS
- Civics and Citizenship 7–10
- Economics and Business 7–10
- Geography 7–10
- History 7–10.

Health and Physical Education

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum submitted for assessment **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education Version 9.0.

The Arts

The Recognition Committee considers that the Australian Montessori National Curriculum submitted for assessment **allows for comparable educational outcomes for students by the end of Year 10** in relation to the Australian Curriculum: The Arts Version 9.0.

Technologies

As the Australian Montessori National Curriculum does not include a Technologies equivalent learning area, schools should teach the Australian Curriculum: Technologies (or local curriculum) in conjunction with Montessori guidelines and support materials. Given that in Montessori schools Digital Technologies content will typically be introduced to students later than it is presented in the Australian Curriculum, the expectation is that students should be able to demonstrate achievement of the Year 8 achievement standard by the end of Year 10.

Recommendation

The Australian Montessori National Curriculum documents the organisation of knowledge and skills in planes of development. The Recognition Committee acknowledges the difference between this approach and that taken for the Australian Curriculum, and considers that the AMNC allows students to achieve comparable learning outcomes in English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, and The Arts by the end of Year 10.

As the Australian Montessori National Curriculum does not include a Technologies equivalent learning area, schools should teach the Australian Curriculum: Technologies (or local curriculum) in conjunction with Montessori guidelines and support materials. Given that in Montessori schools Digital Technologies content will typically be introduced to students later than it is presented in the Australian Curriculum, the expectation is that students should be able to demonstrate achievement of the Year 8 achievement standard by the end of Year 10.

Certified on behalf of the ACARA Alternative Curriculum Recognition Committee

Print name

Signature

Date

Kim Vernon



18.12.2025

A/Executive Director, Curriculum