Australian Curriculum

Fact sheet for parents

A new era in education

The Australian Curriculum will be introduced in all Queensland schools from January 2012, and will gradually replace the current Queensland curriculum.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) created the curriculum, with input from some of Queensland’s leading education experts.

Queensland state schools are well prepared for this historic milestone and will begin teaching the national English, mathematics and science curriculum for Prep to Year 10 from January next year. History will be added in 2013.

What are the benefits?

This is an exciting time because an Australian curriculum gives teachers and students more consistent standards in all schools nationwide, and an updated, contemporary 21st century curriculum.

It sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all students.

It also identifies what all young people should learn as they progress through school, and is the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all Australian students.

This means young people across Australia will have a consistent curriculum regardless of where they live in the country.

What will be taught as part of the Australian Curriculum?

Core learning

The Australian Curriculum includes English, mathematics and science next year, and history from 2013. In addition to these four key learning areas, schools will still have the flexibility to offer a range of other subjects. This allows schools to tailor educational programs to the needs of individual classes and each school community.
General capabilities
Within all subjects, there will be a focus on developing seven General capabilities of students.

The capabilities encompass the skills, behaviours and dispositions that students need to develop and apply to content knowledge. It will help young people become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The seven General capabilities are:
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Information and communication technology (ICT) competence
- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical behaviour
- Personal and social competence
- Intercultural understanding.

Cross-curriculum priorities
Incorporated within each of the four key subjects and the seven General capabilities, are the three cross-curriculum priorities.

Students will learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture, Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia, and Sustainability.

Get involved
Students are more likely to be successful when their parents and families are engaged in their education.

A wide range of research has shown that when parents are truly engaged, their children:
- Attend school more regularly
- Are better behaved
- Have better academic outcomes
- Have a greater sense of how to be successful in school
- Are more likely to graduate and go on to post-secondary education.

Parents and carers can support their child’s education by familiarising themselves with the Australian Curriculum to understand what their child will be learning at each stage of their schooling.

For more information about what will be taught at each year level, visit the Australian Curriculum website at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Helpful tips and resources for parents and carers to support their child’s education can be found at www.education.qld.gov.au/parents