

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - the Redeveloped Primary School Curriculum - 2025

What is the redeveloped Primary School Curriculum?

The redeveloped Primary School Curriculum consists of the *Primary Curriculum Framework (2023)* and five curriculum area specifications, including:

- **Arts Education** (including Art, Drama and Music)
- **Language** (including Irish, English and Modern Foreign Languages)
- **Social and Environmental Education** (including History and Geography)
- **STEM Education** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education)
- **Wellbeing** (including Physical Education and Social, Personal and Health Education).

Who is the redeveloped curriculum for?

The redeveloped Primary School Curriculum is for all children attending primary and special schools in Ireland.

Why is the curriculum being redeveloped?

Large parts of the curriculum Primary School Curriculum are over 25 years old. The curriculum has been redeveloped to:

- build on the current strengths in our primary and special schools
- reflect the changing needs of children and society
- support inclusive, child-centred learning
- integrate the seven Key Competencies important for children living in today's world
- equip children with the essential knowledge, skills, concepts, dispositions, attitudes, and values which enable them to adapt to and deal with a range of situations, challenges, and contexts
- integrate learning from research, insights from working with schools, and the experiences of children and their families.

How has the curriculum been redeveloped?

The curriculum has been redeveloped through a collaborative and comprehensive approach, involving extensive research, consultation, networking, and deliberations. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) led this process by:

- commissioning extensive research, including literature reviews on various curriculum areas and a longitudinal study on *Children's School Lives*.
- conducting wide consultations with various groups, including children, parents, teachers, school leaders, and other stakeholders, through consultation events, online surveys, focus groups, and seminars.

- bringing people together to discuss the curriculum through Curriculum Seminars, *Leading Out* seminars, and Reimagining the Curriculum Seminars
- working, over a number of years, with the Schools Forum, comprising representatives from over 60 schools
- deliberating through curriculum area Development Groups, the NCCA Board for Early Childhood and Primary education and the NCCA Council.

For more information on how the curriculum was redeveloped visit: ncca.ie/primary/

Who had a say in how it was redeveloped?

Thousands of people contributed to the redevelopment:

- children themselves participated in consultations to share their views on the curriculum
- parents were involved through focus groups, submissions and surveys
- the general public participated through submissions and surveys
- teachers and school leaders participated through consultations, school networks, and Development Groups
- education partners and wider stakeholders from across the education sector, including teacher unions, management bodies, the support services, and government departments/agencies, provided input through consultation events, seminars, meetings, and written submissions
- academics and researchers provided research evidence and expert advice, including the NCCA's Advisory Panel (Primary).

When will the new curriculum be introduced?

The redeveloped curriculum will begin phased introduction from September 2025, starting with an introductory year. Full enactment will follow gradually over several years from 2026 – 2032.

What is the vision of the redeveloped curriculum?

The curriculum: provide a strong foundation for every child to thrive and flourish

- views children as unique, competent and caring individuals
- recognises the right of all children to make progress in all areas of their learning
- views teachers as committed, skilful, and agentic professionals
- supports continuity of learning from early childhood through primary and special education and into post-primary education.

What changes will children experience in the classroom?

Children will benefit from:

- a more integrated curriculum
- building Key Competencies important for children living in today's world
- a greater emphasis on playful and engaging learning with more active and inquiry-based learning experiences.
- a greater emphasis on child agency and choice.

- new learning opportunities in STEM Education with a greater focus on technology; a broader approach to Arts Education including media arts; an introduction to Modern Foreign Languages (MFL); a new approach to Physical Education (PE); updated learning in Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE); and new learning in religions, beliefs and worldviews as part of Social and Environment Education (SEE).

How will teachers be supported?

Teachers and school leaders will receive:

- professional learning through Oide, NCSE and PPLI
- whole-school closure days
- in-school support and online resources
- access to NCCA Online Curriculum Toolkits on curriculumonline.ie.

For more information visit: Department of Education and Youth Website

Will schools have flexibility in how they introduce the curriculum?

Yes, within parameters of the guidance from the Department of Education and Youth, schools can begin working with the curriculum at their own pace and tailor enactment to suit their unique context.

For more information visit: Department of Education and Youth Website

Where can I find more information and resources?

Visit:

- www.ncca.ie for curriculum updates and documents
- www.curriculumonline.ie for toolkits and information on each curriculum area
- www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/ for policy information.