

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum sets out the stages and core subjects a child will be taught during their time at school. Children aged five to 16 in 'maintained' or state schools must be taught the National Curriculum.

The National Curriculum - what it sets out

The National Curriculum is a framework used by all maintained schools to ensure that teaching and learning is balanced and consistent. It sets out:

- the subjects taught
- the knowledge, skills and understanding required in each subject
- standards or attainment targets in each subject - teachers can use these to measure your child's progress and plan the next steps in their learning
- how a child's progress is assessed and reported

Within the framework of the National Curriculum, schools are free to plan and organise teaching and learning in the way that best meets the needs of their pupils. Many schools use the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Schemes of Work to plan their curriculum. These help to translate the National Curriculum's objectives into teaching and learning activities.

- [Early learning from three to five: what your child will learn](#)
- [The National Curriculum for five to 11 year olds](#)
- [The National Curriculum for 11 to 16 year olds](#)

Text from Understanding the National Curriculum at:
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/ExamsTestsAndTheCurriculum/DG_4016665

Key stages

Age	Stage	Year	Test/Qualifications
3-4	Foundation		
4-5		Reception	
5-6	Key Stage 1	Year 1	
6-7		Year 2	National tests and tasks in English and mathematics
7-8	Key Stage 2	Year 3	
8-9		Year 4	
9-10		Year 5	National tests in English,

10-11		Year 6	mathematics and science
11-12	Key Stage 3	Year 7	National tests in English, mathematics and science
12-13		Year 8	
13-14		Year 9	
14-15	Key Stage 4	Year 10	Some children take GCSEs Most children take GCSEs or other national qualifications
15-16		Year 11	
16-17	Post-compulsory education and/or training	Year 12 (College Year 1)	Learning programmes leading to general, vocationally-related and occupational qualifications for example, A level, vocational A level, NVQ, modern apprenticeship
17-18		Year 13 (College Year 2)	
18-19			

Good web links:

http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_7124.aspx

www.direct.gov.au

www.curriculumonline.gov.uk

www.qca.org.uk