

National curriculum changes

The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa

Introduction

The national curriculum, comprising The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, underpins everything that you, as principals and teachers, do in the classroom. It guides teaching practice and sets the direction for student learning, setting out the knowledge, skills, competencies and dispositions students need for study, work and lifelong learning.

The Ministry of Education has been reviewing and refreshing the national curriculum since 2019. It's the first time it's been reviewed since 2007.

We have a clear goal in mind, and that is for our young people to experience a curriculum that is internationally comparable and prepares them for success both locally and globally, regardless of their individual circumstances. The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa will be knowledge-rich and grounded in the science of learning.

It's also important that our curriculum documents acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the bicultural foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand, while reflecting our cultural diversity and valuing the histories and traditions of all our people.

We're now at the point where we can give you more details around the timing for introducing the updated curriculum into your school and classrooms.

We also want to tell you how we will support you during the implementation period, and what we will do with the feedback you provide. Teachers and kaiako are the ones who bring the curriculum to life each day in classrooms and kura around the country. Your views will help us continue to refine and shape the updated national curriculum.



Timeline for the introduction of the updated curriculum

Term 1, 2025: Schools and kura must teach the updated English and Te Reo Rangatira curriculum for Years 0 to 6.

Term 1, 2026: Schools and kura with Years 7 to 13 must teach the updated English and Te Reo Rangatira curriculum and mathematics and statistics and Pāngarau for Years 0 to 13. Requiring the use of these learning areas and wāhanga ako in 2026 will give secondary schools lead-in time for implementation. The Ministry will work with NZQA to make sure NCEA achievement standards only assess content that is in the updated national curriculum.

The fully updated national curriculum, including all the other learning areas, wāhanga ako and subjects, will be available for all schools and kura to use throughout 2026, giving a full year of implementation support before it's officially required from 2027.

The New Zealand Curriculum

Available for feedback and use Required

Learning areas	2024	2025	2026	2027
English (Years 0-6)	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required	Required
English (Years 7-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Mathematics and statistics (Years 0-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Science	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Technology	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Health and physical education	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Learning languages	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
The Arts	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Social sciences	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required

Te Marautanga o Aotearoa

Wāhanga Ako	2024	2025	2026	2027
Te Reo Rangatira (Years 0-6)	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required	Required
Te Reo Rangatira (Years 7-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Pāngarau (Years 0-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Te Ao Māori	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Pūtaiao me te Hangarau	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Toi Ihiihi	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Waiora	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Ngā Reo	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Te Reo Pākehā	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required

Further information will be made available to schools and kura on how they can provide feedback on content.

Key developments

Years 11 to 13 will have a national curriculum that will be broken out into subjects to more clearly align with NCEA achievement standards and senior secondary programmes of learning.

The NCEA change programme has been rephased to allow time to develop clear curricula for senior secondary level subjects before NCEA Levels 2 and 3 are further developed. This was announced by the Minister of Education in April this year.

Evidence-based teaching practices will be integrated into the national curriculum, providing clarity about what teaching and learning is needed at each year level, and the practices that work best. This will incorporate the work done on the draft common practice model and the Ako Framework into a single document.

We are retaining and strengthening the 'Understand, Know, Do' model in the updated national curriculum, which has already been tested. We are also using Mātauranga — Pūkenga — Whanonga (Knowledge, Skills, Dispositions) as the organising model in Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

Progressions

There will be five phases of learning which progress students' knowledge and understanding over time. These phases are Years 0-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-13. These will now be strengthened by a year-by-year sequence so teachers know what they need to cover in each year.

Your feedback is important

You are at the front line, putting this new curriculum into practice. Your experience and feedback is important to us.

Before the updated national curriculum content is introduced, we want to hear from you, principals, subject matter experts, national teaching and learning experts and special interest groups. We have very deliberately built in many opportunities for feedback to occur along the way.

For each learning area, wāhanga ako, or subject, we are establishing writing groups using our standard selection criteria. Writers who are preparing the first draft of curriculum material are typically experienced teachers and principals, and are building on existing work on the last four years.

The Education Review Office will provide ongoing independent quality assurances throughout the writing process. Feedback from ERO will be provided at multiple milestones as the material is being prepared. This will involve leadership partners from schools and kura around New Zealand working with principals and teachers to provide timely feedback on the usability, design, and content of the curriculum as it is developed. An international panel will also provide expert advice to make sure our curriculum is world-leading and designed to support principals, teachers and kaiako to lift student achievement.

Early draft material will be provided to subject associations, selected schools and other experts for further feedback.

All schools and kura will then have the opportunity to provide feedback on the updated national curriculum. This content will be available for schools to use, refine, test and provide feedback before it's finalised and before it's officially used in classrooms.

The review of the new curriculum won't stop there. We know that undertaking wholesale change of the entire curriculum at once can be disruptive. We are therefore moving to a cycle of continuously reviewing and updating curriculum areas over the coming years in response to the insights you provide. Our goal is to make sure the curriculum is current, relevant and fit for purpose.

Feedback timeframes

Content will be available for use and review at these times:

- › **Term 3, 2024:** English and Te Reo Rangatira (Years 0-6).
- › **Term 4, 2024:** English and Te Reo Rangatira (Years 7-13), maths and Pāngarau (Years 0-13), science (Years 0-13) and technology (Years 0-13).
- › **Term 4, 2025:** All other learning areas (Health & PE, learning languages, the arts, and social sciences) and wāhanga ako (Te Ao Māori, Pūtaiao me te Hangarau, Toi Ihiihi, Waiora, Te Reo Pākehā, and Ngā Reo), and the overall curriculum frameworks for both The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

How we will support you during the implementation of the new curriculum

We'll support you to build capability and embed changes. This will include professional learning and development (PLD) opportunities and guidance from regionally based Curriculum Leads.

We'll provide a range of existing and planned supports for structured literacy and rangaranga reo ā-ta (structured te reo matatini), to help prepare you for what good practice looks like before English and Te Reo Rangatira (Years 0-6) must be taught.

This is already underway with the delivery of PLD for structured literacy and rangaranga reo ā-ta. Future PLD will be phased in over time as the national curriculum work programme is implemented.

In addition, a growing suite of high-quality resources and supports for teachers and leaders will be developed and made available, such as video resources and training days.

These resources will be available on Tāhūrangi, the online curriculum hub, to help you plan relevant and exciting lessons, bringing the national curriculum to life, providing context to the teaching and learning programmes to help engage learners' interests.

Work will continue with the Education Review Office, the Teaching Council, initial teacher education, and PLD providers to build consistent understanding of the changes to the curriculum and evidence-based practices.

As we've set out above, schools and kura will teach the updated English and Te Reo Rangatira curriculum for Years 0 to 6 from term 1 next year. Given that schools will also be expected to use structured approaches to literacy from the start of 2025, we're ensuring you have access to professional learning and development. From November this year, there will be teacher-only days to help them prepare for implementing the new national curriculum.

Independent quality assurance process

Writing – Writers groups are set up for each learning area, wāhanga ako, or subject. Experienced teachers and principals write the first draft.

ERO review – The Education Review Office works with leadership partners from schools and kura to consider usability, design, and content.



Feedback is provided to the Ministry's writing groups.

Writing refinement – Quality assurance and ERO feedback is considered and incorporated into the drafts.

An international panel provides expert advice.

Sector engagement and feedback

Content will be available for schools to use, refine, test and provide feedback before it's finalised and before it's officially used in classrooms.

- › **Term 3, 2024:** English and Te Reo Rangatira (Years 0-6).
- › **Term 4, 2024:** English and Te Reo Rangatira (Years 7-13), maths and Pāngarau (Years 0-13), science (Years 0-13) and technology (Years 0-13).
- › **Term 4, 2025:** All other learning areas, and overall curriculum frameworks.

Education sector provides feedback (peak bodies, subject associations, interest groups, schools, kura, and national and international experts) through consultation process.



Feedback is provided to the Ministry's writing groups.

Final national curriculum – fully updated national curriculum gazetted and required to be used.



Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education


Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government