

How we develop the National Curriculum

We are on a journey to strengthen our national curriculum. In partnership with the education sector, we are working towards a curriculum that is knowledge rich, grounded in the science of learning and nationally consistent so we can enable learners and ākonga to get a world leading education wherever they go to school.

Our shared journey to develop the national curriculum is made up of five key steps outlined below.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
by mid-April 2025	by early-June 2025	by late-September 2025	by mid-November 2025	November 2025 – mid-June 2026
We set the direction for the learning area or wāhanga ako ensuring we have a clear intent and approach underpinned by research.	We develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The progression which lays out the overall knowledge for the learning area or wāhanga ako (0-13). › The knowledge which captures key questions, topics and contexts, by phase and year level. 	We develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The guidance/ method which provides a knowledge base and guidance for teachers. › The teaching sequence and ensure the key competencies are included. › The UKD purpose and ensure it aligns with the key competencies. (UKD is for NZC only). 	We check all sections of the learning areas and wāhanga ako and complete a full curriculum review to make sure everything is coherent and consistent.	We test and finalise the curriculum content which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › in-class testing (Nov 2025 – end of March 2026). › consultation (Nov 2025 – end of March 2026). › finalising content (March-April 2026). › gazetting the final curriculum (by mid-June 2026).
Partnership with the sector is at the heart of our curriculum development process. For steps 2 through 5, we work closely with teachers, kaiako, principals and tumuaki. We draw on your important feedback, insights, and expertise through focus groups and consultation to help shape and finalise curriculum content.				

While we have already approached some people to participate in our contributor groups, we will be looking for more participants in future. If you are interested and wish to be considered for any of the future stages, please contact us at nationalcurriculum.refresh@education.govt.nz and we will get back to you.