



Consultation on 7-13 English learning area is now open

Priority 1: Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning
Priority 2: Implementing evidence-based instruction in early literacy and mathematics
31 March 2025

We're pleased to reach another milestone on our shared journey to strengthen the national curriculum which includes refreshing The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and redesigning Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (TMOA).

The draft learning area for Years 7-13 English in The NZC is now available and we welcome your feedback and informed insights on this content during our consultation from 31 March – 13 June 2025.

To accompany and support the draft Years 7-13 English learning area we are also releasing a draft list of suggested texts that align to and exemplify the range, form and complexity of texts outlined in the curriculum. This draft resource includes limited examples only and is not representative of a comprehensive list. Using feedback from you, it will be extended, further developed and released with the final English learning area.

By leveraging the expertise of teachers, principals and a wide variety of education professionals, academics and associations, we aim to enhance student progress and achievement. Your informed insights and valued feedback are at the heart of this and will help us to shape curriculum content that is clear, structured, evidence-based and grounded in the science of learning.

Updated content will then be released in Term 4, 2025 and becomes required teaching from the start of 2026.

As a sector we have been talking for a number of years about the need for a clearer, more detailed curriculum to support quality teaching and learning, and reduce teacher workload. What you will see in the draft content is a clear teaching sequence.

This change means that schools will not have to create teaching sequences themselves, freeing up teachers to focus on building teaching and learning programmes that bring the content to life. This will help you to engage your learners through learning experiences that develop a love of reading, writing and literature, and mastery of the knowledge, skills and competencies they need to be successful life-long learners.

In Years 7-13, the English learning area is more explicitly focused on English as a subject and will more clearly align with secondary programmes of learning. Therefore, you will notice some

changes compared to the Years 0-6 English learning area in the purpose statement, learning area structure and teaching guidance sections to reflect this. The refreshed learning area provides the level of detail required to give teachers more clarity about what needs to be taught and when.

Our work so far has been contributed to by teachers, subject-matter experts, school leaders and curriculum design experts. It has been shared with sector representative groups for initial feedback.

Through ongoing professional supports, alongside monitoring and continuous improvement, we strive for a system where every student has the opportunity to achieve success.

What you will recognise in The New Zealand Curriculum and what is new

We are pleased to share the draft content for the Years 7-13 English learning area. Together with the Years 0-6 English content released late last year, this learning area will sit within The NZC framework (Te Mātaiaho).

This framework will continue to be refined alongside the development of all learning areas.

You will recognise:

- Understand, Know, Do (UKD) model
- Phases of learning

What you will notice that is new:

- In Years 7-13, the English learning area shifts to an English subject-specific focus.
- Years 7-8 students will establish foundational skills in reading, writing, and oral language, transitioning into text studies and language studies from Years 9-13.
- Throughout Years 7-13, text requirements ensure a deliberate focus on engaging with a diverse range of texts.
- Increased, evidence-based teaching guidance shows how teachers can incorporate the components of a comprehensive teaching and learning programme at each phase.
- A clear progression of content, and teaching approaches that will prepare students for assessment, and future learning pathways.

Is this the final presentation?

The draft learning area is presented as a PDF for your feedback. This is not yet formatted for online or as the final version.

We have worked with focus groups of teachers and principals who have provided advice on how an online format of the national curriculum can be presented in the future. If you have any feedback on the online structure, please tell us here: [Draft English \(7-13\) feedback form](#)

Once we have taken in your feedback to help shape the next version of the English learning area, you can expect the next version we release for use from the start of 2026 will bring the content to life in a way that is interactive and easy to navigate.

This means you will be able to see the presentation of progress outcomes and teaching sequences, by years or phases, presented in a clear online format.

We will also connect the content to accompanying resources and supports and will continue to build on this over time, improving the user experience based on your continued feedback. For examples of what this might look like in the future, you can see:

The British Columbia National Curriculum here: [British Columbia](#)

The Australian National Curriculum here: [Australia](#)

The Singapore National Curriculum here: [Singapore](#)

For all curriculum content, you will still be able to find PDF versions on Tāhūrangi as an alternative way to download and view information.

Have your say

You can read the draft content for the Years 7-13 English learning area and have your say here: [Draft English \(7-13\) Consultation \(Tāhūrangi\)](#)

How you will be supported in using the curriculum

We know schools will be at different places as you start to use the updated national curriculum next year. Embedding the new curriculum content is a process that will look different for every school. We will fully support the implementation of the updated national curriculum in a range of different ways including:

- Teaching resources for 7-13 will be available on Tāhūrangi when we release the final content: [implementation supports hub](#)
- Targeted literacy support for approximately 170 identified schools and immersion units
- If you haven't subscribed to the Curriculum Newsletter, we strongly encourage you to sign-up to make sure you receive the latest news and information about the support available including PLD, resources, and funding: [Subscribe to our curriculum newsletters](#)
- The Curriculum Advisory Service (CAS), as part of regional teams, are an important part of implementing and embedding curriculum change including English (7-13). They will be prepared to support schools and kura who need the support most, to implement the English learning area.

The timelines for engaging with NZC curriculum materials

| The New Zealand Curriculum | | Available for feedback and use | | | Required |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------|------|----------|
| | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 → |
| Curriculum framework | | | | | |
| Learning areas | | | | | |
| English | Years 0-6 | | | | |
| | Years 7-13 | | | | |
| Mathematics and statistics | Years 0-8 | | | | |
| | Years 9-13 | | | | |
| Science | | | | | |
| Technology | | | | | |
| Health and physical education | | | | | |
| Learning languages | | | | | |
| The arts | | | | | |
| Social sciences | | | | | |

What's next?

The Ministry's Curriculum Advisory Service will lead regional feedback workshops during May and June 2025.

The consultation period will close Friday 13 June 2025. Once the consultation closes, updates will be made to the drafts, and final versions will be presented as online resources in Term 4, 2025.

The final full Years 0-13 English curriculum will be gazetted at the end of 2025 for required use in 2026. This will incorporate any amendments for Years 0-6 English in response to feedback we receive from you during 2025 and to provide alignment across Years 0 - 13.

The full curriculum will be gazetted in 2026 and required for use from 2027, the Government intends to move into a regular update cycle for the curriculum, as occurs in other jurisdictions, to avoid the need for wholesale reform.