



Social Sciences Learning Area Years 0–10

28 October 2025

Priority 1: Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning

We're pleased to release the draft curriculum content for the New Zealand Curriculum Years 0–10 Social Sciences.

Consultation is now open on the draft curriculum content for the New Zealand Curriculum Years 0–10 Social Sciences Learning Area. The content is now available [here](#).

This information sheet outlines what you will notice across the learning area, as well as providing the high-level engagement timeline.

Key things to note:

- The draft curriculum content for Years 0–10 Social Sciences learning area traces explicit political, economic, cultural, and social themes through time.
- Young people will have mandatory financial education, to help them make good financial decisions throughout their lives. Financial education is embedded in the curriculum from the start of schooling and builds up progressively over the years.
- The Civics and Society strand will provide students with political literacy and understanding of our democratic systems, to help them become engaged citizens and influence change.
- Students will learn how democratic systems work and how people participate in civic life. They will explore rights, responsibilities, laws, the role of te Tiriti o Waitangi | the Treaty of Waitangi, and how to engage respectfully with diverse perspectives and public issues.
- The content is carefully chosen to deliver both New Zealand history and global history. Students will be taught about significant global events and their impact on New Zealand.
- Māori history is covered in depth as a prominent part of New Zealand history and there is space for local examples and contexts to enrich the learning. The draft curriculum framework, Te Mātaiaho, emphasises the importance of mutually beneficial local relationships and contexts to support learning.
- Topics are deliberately connected across history, geography, and civics and society, to give a connected and balanced Social Sciences curriculum.

What you will notice across all learning areas

UKD Change — in earlier versions of English and Mathematics and Statistics the Understand, Know and Do components had been woven together within the Progress Outcomes. In the updated versions and across all learning areas these concepts of understanding, knowledge and practice are strengthened, while the terms Understand, Know and Do are no longer explicitly referred to in the curriculum.

Purpose Statement — describes why the learning area is important and how it contributes to a student's education. It captures the enduring big ideas that students develop understanding of over the years and sets out the context for teaching and learning programmes.

Learning Area Structure — defines the knowledge strands used as the major organisational components within the learning area. It lays out how the related knowledge and practices are grouped into distinct areas of disciplinary focus.

Introduction — presents the increasingly sophisticated journey of the learning area as the knowledge and practices unfold across Years 0–10. It describes the evolving role of teachers and the different emphasis of teaching and learning programmes across the different year levels.

Year-by-year teaching sequence — organised through the knowledge strands, sets out the knowledge and practices to be taught each year. Together, the knowledge and practice statements support students to build deep understanding and fluency in each learning area.

Through engaging with the disciplinary knowledge and practices of the learning areas, students develop capabilities essential for lifelong learning.

What you will notice in Social Sciences

Social Sciences has four knowledge strands as detailed below.

History (Years 1–10)

- History includes two elements: New Zealand History and Global History.
- In this context, New Zealand history spans from the arrival of Māori voyagers from Polynesia until the late 20th century. It also includes topics that provide the context of history within the Asia Pacific region.
- Global history topics have been selected so that students learn about content across continents over the span of human history.

Civics and Society (Years 1–10)

- Students will learn how democratic systems work and how people participate in civic life.
- They explore rights, responsibilities, laws, the role of te Tiriti o Waitangi | the Treaty of Waitangi and how to engage respectfully with diverse perspectives and public issues.

Geography (Years 1–10)

- Students will build a coherent understanding of the physical and human processes that shape the world, how people interact with the environment, and how these relationships change over time and space.
- Geography content is deliberately balanced to ensure students encounter local, regional and national, and global contexts.

Economic Activity (Years 1–10)

- Students will explore how financial and economic systems operate.
- They will learn about personal finance, business and government roles, and New Zealand's economy in a global context.

The knowledge is organised into structures and sequences so that students gain a complex, interconnected, and ever-expanding schema.

This learning area traces explicit political, economic, cultural, and social themes through time.

It is more structured and disciplinary knowledge focused, moving away from the broad, integrated 'social studies' conceptual strands of the 2007 social sciences learning area.

Engagement and Timeline

The Years 0–10 NZC draft curriculum is now available, and we welcome your feedback on this content during our consultation through to Friday, 24 April 2026. By drawing on the expertise of teachers, principals, education professionals, academics and associations, we aim to strengthen student progress and achievement. Your insights are central to this and will help shape curriculum content that is clear, structured, evidence-based, and grounded in the science of learning.

Following consultation the draft content will be finalised, with formal release of the updated curriculum content planned for mid-2026. Years 0–10 Social Science will become required teaching from the start of 2027.

Online feedback forms are available on Tāhūrangi [here](#).

Schools and kura will also be invited to participate in the in-class testing of the Years 0–10 NZC learning areas and wāhanga ako during Term 1, 2026. More information on how to take part will be shared later in Term 4, 2025.

The Refreshed National Curriculum

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
English and Te Reo Rangatira 0-6 and Mathematics and Pāngarau 0-8 required to be used	English and Te Reo Rangatira 0-10 and Mathematics and Statistics and Pāngarau 0-10 required to be used All learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks available. Encouraged use of all Year 9 content	Full curriculum required to be used for Years 9-10 For Years 0-8 use requirements are extended to include Science and Pūtaiao, Social Sciences and Te Ao Māori, Health & Physical Education and Waiora	All Years 0-11 learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks required to be used	All Years 0-12 learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks required to be used	All Years 0-13 learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks required to be used
English 0-6 Te Reo Rangatira 0-6	English 0-10 Te Reo Rangatira 0-10	English 0-10 Te Reo Rangatira 0-10	English 0-11 Te Reo Rangatira 0-11	English 0-12 Te Reo Rangatira 0-12	English 0-13 Te Reo Rangatira 0-13
Mathematics and Statistics 0-8	Mathematics and Statistics 0-10	Mathematics and Statistics 0-10	Mathematics and Statistics 0-11	Mathematics and Statistics 0-12	Mathematics and Statistics 0-13
Pāngarau 0-8	Pāngarau 0-10	Pāngarau 0-10	Pāngarau 0-11	Pāngarau 0-12	Pāngarau 0-13
		Science 0-10 Pūtaiao 0-10	Science 0-11 Pūtaiao 0-11	Science 0-12 Pūtaiao 0-12	Science 0-13 Pūtaiao 0-13
		Social Sciences 0-10	Social Sciences 0-11	Social Sciences 0-12	Social Sciences 0-13
		Te Ao Māori 0-10	Te Ao Māori 0-11	Te Ao Māori 0-12	Te Ao Māori 0-13
		Health & Physical Education 0-10	Health & Physical Education 0-11	Health & Physical Education 0-12	Health & Physical Education 0-13
		Waiora 0-10	Waiora 0-11	Waiora 0-12	Waiora 0-13
		The Arts 9-10	The Arts 0-11	The Arts 0-12	The Arts 0-13
		Toi Ihilhi 9-10	Toi Ihilhi 0-11	Toi Ihilhi 0-12	Toi Ihilhi 0-13
		Technology 9-10	Technology 0-11	Technology 0-12	Technology 0-13
		Hangarau 9-10	Hangarau 0-11	Hangarau 0-12	Hangarau 0-13
		Learning Languages 9-10	Learning Languages 0-11	Learning Languages 0-12	Learning Languages 0-13
		Ngā Reo 9-10	Ngā Reo 0-11	Ngā Reo 0-12	Ngā Reo 0-13
		Te Reo Pākehā 9-10	Te Reo Pākehā 0-11	Te Reo Pākehā 0-12	Te Reo Pākehā 0-13