



Department
for Education

Launch date 8 July 2013
Respond by 8 August 2013
Ref: Department for Education

**National curriculum review: new
programmes of study and attainment
targets from September 2014**

National curriculum review: new programmes of study and attainment targets from September 2014

On 7 February 2013, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, launched a public consultation on the government's proposal for the reform of the national curriculum in England. The government is now undertaking a consultation which seeks representations on the draft legislative Order – the Education (National Curriculum) (Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study) (England) Order 2013 – required to bring these changes into effect.

To Primary, secondary and special schools, academies/freeschools, subject associations, school governing bodies, parents, young people, higher education, employers/business sector, LAs, organisations representing school children or teachers and others with an interest

Issued 8 July 2013

Enquiries To If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: NCRlegislative.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's '[Contact Us](#)' page.

1 Background

1.1 On 7 February 2013 the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, launched a public consultation on the government's proposals for the reform of the national curriculum in England. This followed a review of the national curriculum which was launched in January 2011 with the following aims:

- to ensure that the new national curriculum embodies rigour and high standards and creates coherence in what is taught in schools
- to ensure that all children are taught the essential knowledge in the key subject disciplines
- beyond that core, to allow teachers greater freedom to use their professionalism and expertise to help all children realise their potential.

The consultation closed on 16 April and received over 17,000 responses from a wide range of groups including schools, headteachers, teaching unions, colleges and universities, subject associations, local authorities, employers, parents and young people. Since then, we have reviewed the responses to the consultation carefully and discussed the draft programmes of study with key subject organisations, headteachers, teachers and other subject experts. We have now published a [report](#) on this consultation.

1.2 Purpose of this consultation

The government has produced a final draft of the new national curriculum for all subjects and key stages (except for key stage 4 English, mathematics and science).

The government is now undertaking a consultation under section 96 of the Education Act 2002 which seeks representations on the draft legislative Order required to bring changes to these programmes of study and attainment targets into effect. A copy of the draft Order and the revised national curriculum framework document can be found [here](#) along with an assessment of the impact of our proposals on groups of pupils with protected characteristics.

A further consultation on the programmes of study for key stage 4 English, mathematics and science will follow in the autumn, once the GCSE content for those subjects is finalised.

Please note that programmes of study for computing have been included in this consultation. This is subject to Parliament giving its assent to the government's proposal to change the name of the national curriculum subject 'information and communication technology' (ICT) to 'computing'.

2 Proposal

2.1 The government has considered very carefully the responses received to the consultation which closed in April, and has also had further direct discussions about the draft programmes of study with key subject organisations, headteachers, teachers and other subject experts. In considering the views expressed, we have been mindful of the original principles of the review and our fundamental aim of returning the national curriculum to its original purpose as a guide to study in key subjects. Our [response](#) to the main issues raised in the consultation has now been published. This highlights in particular the following changes to the draft programmes of study:

- we have revised the primary English programmes of study to include a new section on spoken language skills and included further content on the importance of vocabulary development
- we have revised the programmes of study for design and technology in response to concerns that the draft published for consultation was not sufficiently aspirational. Working with the Design and Technology Association (DATA), the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng) and a broad range of industrial representatives we have now prepared a curriculum that has greater flexibility and a broader range of industrial applications than its precursor – whilst stressing high level technical skills
- we have removed the proposed list of languages from the key stage 2 programme of study for foreign languages to give schools a free choice over which modern or ancient language pupils should study over the four years of key stage 2
- we have added explicit references to climate change at key stage 3 in the geography curriculum. This is in addition to the content that was already present in both science and geography which will give pupils a rigorous, fact-based understanding of the science underpinning climate change
- we have revised the programmes of study for history to respond to concerns that the draft subject content published in February was too

prescriptive, attempted to cover too much ground at key stage 2, and could have matched the subject aims more effectively, particularly in its coverage of world history. Having weighed these views, and taking into account the support expressed by some eminent historians for the principles that underpinned those drafts, we have slimmed down the new programmes of study, making clear where content is included as optional guidance rather than a legal requirement, and included additional content on world history. At the same time we have retained a core focus on teaching the history of Britain and its relationship with the world within a clear chronological framework.

- 2.2** In addition, we have made a range of detailed changes to the programmes of study for all subjects in response to the consultation. These changes are reflected in the revised drafts which have now been published and which form part of the draft Order necessary to bring the new national curriculum into effect.
- 2.3** Under the legislation which governs the national curriculum, the Secretary of State is now required to consult on this draft Order, which can be found [here](#).

Question 1: Do you have any general comments on the draft Order?

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for English?

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for mathematics?

Question 4: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for science?

Question 5: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for art and design?

Question 6: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for citizenship?

Question 7: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for computing?

Question 8: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for design and technology?

Question 9: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for geography?

Question 10: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for history?

Question 11: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for languages?

Question 12: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for music?

Question 13: Do you have any comments on the revised draft programmes of study or attainment targets for physical education?

3 How To Respond

3.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations

by emailing: NCRlegislative.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Carole Edge, Department for Education, Area 1C Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2 GJ

4 Additional Copies

4.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

5 Plans for making results public

- 5.1** The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in autumn 2013.