



# The new primary curriculum:

## What you need to know as a parent or guardian

the new primary curriculum,

when changes are happening, and

where you can find out more.

### The new primary curriculum

A curriculum sets out what children should learn and how they can learn it in school.

The curriculum that is used in our primary and special schools is 24 years old and is now changing. Here are some examples of what the new curriculum will do:

- build on the successes and strengths of the current curriculum
- make connections with what and how children learn in preschool, primary, special, and post-primary schools

- include new areas of learning, such as Technology and Engineering, a broader Arts Education and Modern Foreign Languages which will begin when children reach third class



- provide new suggested time allocations for each curriculum area/subject



- provide more flexibility for teachers in deciding how best to use class time
- emphasise the importance of play and playfulness in learning for every child from junior infants right through to sixth class.



The new primary curriculum will include the following five areas and subjects: -

**Language**

English, Irish and Modern Foreign Languages from third class.

**STEM Education**

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

**Wellbeing**

Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Physical Education (PE).

**Arts Education**

Drama, Art and Music.

**Social and Environmental Education**

History and Geography.

In addition to the five areas set out above, the Patron’s Programme forms part of your child’s learning experience in primary and special schools. The patron, the body that establishes and operates the school, has a legal right under the 1998

Education Act to design and implement its own programme (patron’s programme) in accordance with the ethos of their school. In the majority of patron’s programmes, the area of religious education is addressed.

**When is the primary curriculum changing?**

A new Primary Language Curriculum for English and Irish is already being taught in our primary and special schools since September 2019. A new mathematics curriculum will be introduced to schools in September 2023. Teachers will have a year to become familiar with it before they start teaching it in class from August/September 2024. Teachers will continue to teach the current mathematics curriculum until that time.

The changes to the other areas and subjects of the curriculum will be introduced in the school year beginning in August/September 2025.

**Parents/Guardians and the new curriculum**

Parents and guardians continue to play a key role in their child’s education. The new curriculum promotes a partnership approach which will encourage increased communication between schools and parents. This aims to keep you informed about your child’s progress in school and the school informed about your child’s learning at home.

Parents and guardians have had input to the curriculum to date through public and targeted consultation.



1 Scan the QR code or [click here](#) for the results of the consultation.

Parents and guardians will continue to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft curriculum areas and subjects through public consultations in 2024. These consultations will be widely advertised.

**Where can I find more information?**

Scan the QR code or click the link below



2

[click](#)



3

[click](#)



4

[click](#)

- 1. NCCA.ie
- 2. Gov.ie
- 3. Curriculumonline.ie
- 4. NCSE.ie