



The 'New' National Curriculum – Fact Sheet 1

September 2015

Welcome to the first of a series of 'fact sheets' about the new national curriculum and assessment arrangements from September 2015. The aim of these fact sheets is

- To provide parents and carers with information about changes to the National Curriculum.
- To explain how the changes to the National Curriculum affect the way we teach and assess.
- To explain how the changes will affect how we communicate with parents/carers regarding children's progress.
- To explain the changes to external assessments (end of Key Stage statutory tests).

A new national curriculum for primary schools became statutory for all year groups except year 2 and 6 in maintained schools from September 2014. From this September, all year groups are following the new National Curriculum.

- The main aim is to raise standards – the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging.
- The government believes that the new curriculum will produce productive, creative and well-educated students.
- The content is slimmer than the old National Curriculum, but it is intended that schools define their own 'school curriculum' in addition to include any content which they believe is particularly relevant to their pupils or locality.
- The National Curriculum focuses on essential core subject knowledge and skills.
- Pupils in Reception had their own new curriculum in 2012 (the EYFS or Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum), but they will need to be ready to follow the New National Curriculum by the end of the reception year.

One of the main differences in the curriculum is that it is intended that children will work mainly within the programmes of study for their own year group. When they become competent in these expectations, they will be provided with learning opportunities to 'deepen' their understanding and competency, rather than automatically moving to the expectations for the next year group as they would have done previously. There is also an emphasis on mastering key skills before moving on in order to give firm foundations for later learning and to help avoid gaps in learning.

Assessment also looks very different in the new system. Children will no longer be allocated a 'level' when being assessed. Instead, their competency against a series of key indicators in each subject will be assessed. This information will be gathered over the year in order to make a summative judgement at the end of each year group regarding whether a child has met, exceeded or is working towards age related expectations – similar to the system currently in place for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We are currently part of a Hampshire project group to develop an on-going assessment system for reading, writing and maths and will provide more information for you over the course of the year regarding how this will work.

We hope that you will find these fact sheets useful – the next sheet will summarise the main changes to the subject content in the new curriculum.

If you have any questions regarding the new curriculum or assessment, please make use of the suggestion box in the school entrance hall or email adminoffice@whiteley.hants.sch.uk. We will either provide an individual reply, or include the answers within this series of fact sheets as appropriate.