

Consultation

Launch Date 20 January 2011

Respond by 14 April 2011

National Curriculum Review - Call for Evidence

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, has announced a review of the primary and secondary National Curriculum in England.

The National Curriculum was originally intended as a guide for study in key subjects which would give parents and teachers confidence that students were acquiring the knowledge necessary at every level of study to make appropriate progress. As it has developed, the National Curriculum has come to cover more subjects, prescribe more outcomes and take up more school time than originally intended.

We want to hear your opinions and evidence about the National Curriculum and start a debate about what is taught in our schools. By answering the questions in the Call for Evidence you can give your input to the discussion at this early stage.

National Curriculum Review - Call for Evidence

A Consultation

To All those with an interest in the National Curriculum.

Issued 20 January 2011

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the DfE Public Communications Unit on:

Enquiries

To Telephone: 0370 000 2288

e-mail: NCReview.RESPONSES@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the call for evidence process in general, you can contact the Consultation Unit by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk

or by telephone: 0370 000 2288.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 20 January the Secretary of State announced the Department's intention to review the National Curriculum for 5-16 year olds in England.

The work of the review will be managed by the Department for Education and will report to the Secretary of State for Education. He has appointed an Advisory Committee to guide the review and help to frame recommendations. An Expert Panel will help to build the evidence base for the review and will ensure that the construction and content of the new National Curriculum is based on evidence and informed by international best practice. Further details are set out in the Secretary of State's statement to Parliament and the detailed remit for the review, available alongside the questions contained in this Call for Evidence.

The evidence submitted through this Call for Evidence will be used to inform the work of the review, which will take place in two phases. The first phase of the review will consider the overall shape and structure of the National Curriculum and will look in detail at the content of new Programmes of Study for English, mathematics, science and physical education, which the remit confirms will be subjects within the National Curriculum in future. Recommendations and draft Programmes of Study for these subjects will be provided to Ministers for consideration by the end of 2011 and final proposals will be subject to a period of public

consultation in 2012.

The intention is that the new National Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and physical education will be prepared and available to schools by September 2012, and maintained schools will be required to teach it from September 2013.

New Programmes of Study for the remaining subjects which it is decided should form part of the National Curriculum, or where it is decided that there should be non-statutory programmes of study in future, will be considered in phase two of the review, starting with a further Call for Evidence to be issued early in 2012. Recommendations and draft Programmes of Study will be provided to Ministers for consideration by the end of 2012 and final proposals will be subject to a period of public consultation in 2013.

The intention is that the new National Curriculum for the subjects considered in phase two will be prepared and available to schools by September 2013, with maintained schools required to teach it from September 2014.

2 Executive Summary - Introductory Letter from Jon Coles

2.1 Dear respondent,

On 20 January, the Secretary of State for Education announced the Government's intention to commence a review of the National Curriculum for 5-16 year olds in England. He also announced the appointment of an Advisory Committee to guide the review and an Expert Panel which will bring together the evidence base. This Call for Evidence was launched on the same day to inform the review.

The Government believes that the current National Curriculum has, over the past few years, moved away from its original purpose - to set out what all children should be taught in key subjects. The Government believes that recent changes to the National Curriculum, such as the inclusion of skills development and the promotion of generic dispositions, have distorted the core function of the National Curriculum and diluted the importance of subject knowledge. Over the same period, England's standing in respected international comparisons of educational achievement has declined.

In conducting this review the Government will ensure that the new National Curriculum has the principles of rigour, fairness and freedom at its core. The remit sets out the aims, objectives and rationale for the review, and I strongly urge you to read this before responding.

We want you to tell us your views and the evidence you have. You may want to focus on only those questions most relevant to you, or where

you have greatest expertise or insight. There is also space at the end of each section for you to comment on issues not covered by the other questions.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your views.



Jon Coles, chair of the Advisory Committee, National Curriculum Review
Director-General for Education Standards, Department for Education

3 Call for Evidence - Questionnaire Content

- 3.1 We wish to hear your views on all key aspects of the issues being considered in the first phase of the National Curriculum review (see remit [here](#)) and the evidence you have to support these. As some sections ask questions about all 12 National Curriculum subjects covered in the remit, this questionnaire is longer than a standard Call for Evidence. You are therefore invited to respond only to those sections and questions that you regard as most important or where you feel you have greatest expertise or insight.

The questionnaire is structured into the following sections:

Section A: About you

Section B: For parents and carers only (Questions 1 to 5)

Section C: General views on the National Curriculum (Questions 6a to 8)

Section D: English, mathematics, science and physical education (Questions 9a to 13)

Section E: Other subjects currently in the National Curriculum (Questions 14a to 22)

Section F: Supporting and recognising progress (Questions 23a to 26)

Section G: International comparisons (Questions 27a to 28)

Section H: How children learn (Question 29)

Section I: Transition (Questions 30 to 33)

Section J: Implementation (Questions 34 to 35)

Section K: Other issues and completing this call for evidence (Questions 36 to 37)

4 How To Respond

- 4.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>

by emailing: NCRReview.RESPONSES@education.gsi.gov.uk

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

Department for Education
Consultation Unit, Area Level 1 C
Castle View House
East Lane
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2GJ

5 Additional Copies

- 5.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>

6 Plans for making results public

- 6.1 The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in spring 2011.

