



What are the subjects in the Australian Curriculum: The Arts?

There are five subjects in The Arts Curriculum for Foundation to Year 10:

- Dance
- Drama
- Media Arts
- Music
- Visual Arts.

Each subject in The Arts learning area focuses on its own traditions and distinctive ways of looking at the world. These subjects are also interconnected through the combinations of art forms that we see today in contemporary performances, films and exhibitions.

The curriculum enables students to explore the particular Arts subjects as well as the dynamic relationships between the different Arts subjects which are found in art works and performances from our own and other cultures. This might involve students making art works in traditional and contemporary forms and using learning from one Arts subject to support learning in another.

What is the structure of the draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts?

Each subject in the Australian Curriculum: The Arts is presented through two strands, *Making* and *Responding*. Content in *Making* focuses on processes, techniques, knowledge and skills to make art works. Content in *Responding* focuses on students exploring, responding to, analysing and interpreting art works. These two strands do not occur in isolation but connect with each other. Students will use their learning through making art to inform the ways they respond to art and vice versa.

The Arts curriculum in each subject is written in bands of year levels:

- Foundation to Year 2
- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6
- Years 7 and 8
- Years 9 and 10.

What flexibility is there for schools when developing teaching and learning programs?

Grouping years of schooling into bands or stages already occurs in most states and territories. Such an arrangement means that there is flexibility for schools to plan when the Arts subjects are taught within the band level. Schools may program each Arts subject to occur in one of the years within a band or across the years in the band.

Although the curriculum is written for five subjects, the structure and nature of content descriptions in each will provide schools with the flexibility to teach subjects discretely or integrate content across a number of Arts subjects into teaching programs.

What national and international curricula and research was drawn upon to develop the draft Australian Curriculum for The Arts?

Arts curriculum from all Australian states and territories informed the development of the draft Australian Curriculum for The Arts. Other reference documents included: *Australia 2020 Summit: Final Report. Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film, and design* (2008), *National Education and the Arts Strategy* (2004) and *Building a creative innovation economy: opportunities for the Australian and New Zealand creative sectors in the digital environment* (2009). The development of the subjects in the draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts has also taken into account curriculum documents from Canada (Ontario), Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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Is this curriculum for generalist or specialist teachers?

The draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts is written for use by both generalist and specialist teachers. Primary schools mostly have generalist teachers who engage students across multiple learning areas. Some states have specialist teachers in one or more Art subjects in primary schools. Secondary schools tend to have specialist teachers for each Arts subject. The curriculum structure allows for flexibility in the depth of study undertaken.

Are there indicative hours for each of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts subjects?

From Foundation to Year 6, students will have opportunities to learn in, through and about all five Arts subjects. From the beginning of secondary school (Year 7 or 8) students will continue to learn in one or more of The Arts subjects, with the opportunity to specialise in one or more subjects in Years 9 and 10.

ACARA provided an indicative time allocation for each band of learning in The Arts to help guide the curriculum writers. ACARA will not specify hours for each Arts subject. Time allocations will be determined by the relevant education authorities in each state or territory, or by the individual school.

How does the draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts compare with current curricula in states and territories?

The draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts draws on current Arts curricula in each state and territory and reflects best practice in Arts education across the country. There are many features of the curriculum that teachers will find familiar.

The Australian Curriculum is unique in that it entitles all Australian students to learn in, through and about the five Arts subjects throughout primary school. It provides a national starting point for Arts learning in Australian schools.

What is the timeline for development and implementation?

The draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts Foundation to Year 10 will be available for national consultation from 9 July until 23 September 2012. Following analysis of feedback from consultation ACARA will determine directions for revision and prepare a final draft. It is anticipated that the final Australian Curriculum: The Arts will be ready for publication, following Ministerial endorsement, before the middle of 2013.

Why is Arts education in schools important?

There is strong evidence that the arts are valuable in education, not only as curriculum content, but also in contributing to better attendance at school, better engagement with school work and therefore better educational outcomes generally for students. The Arts have the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich education by exciting the imagination and encouraging students to reach their creative and expressive potential. The Arts entertain, challenge, provoke responses and express and share the discourse and energy of communities, cultures and histories. The draft Australian Curriculum: The Arts Foundation to Year 10 aims to help students to participate in the arts and to interpret the arts.