

The National Curriculum - A Brief Parent's Guide

The National Curriculum in England was overhauled and changed in 2014. All year groups at Robert Miles Junior will be taught the National Curriculum Programmes of Study from September 2015.

Why the big curriculum change?

The main aim is to raise standards. Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the previous curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills such as essay writing and computer programming.

The main changes.

Below is a summary of the main changes in the core subjects.

<u>English</u>	<p>Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1).</p> <p>Handwriting(not currently assessed under the national curriculum) is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy.</p> <p>Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills.</p>
<u>Maths</u>	<p>Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. $0.375 = 3/8$).</p> <p>By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school).</p> <p>Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic.</p>
<u>Science</u>	<p>Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms.</p> <p>Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time.</p> <p>Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system.</p>
<u>ICT</u> <u>(Computing)</u>	<p>'Computing' replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs.</p> <p>From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet.</p> <p>Internet safety – currently only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools.</p>
<u>Languages</u>	<p>A modern foreign language will be mandatory in KS2. Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language. At Flintham Primary School we will continuing to teach French</p>

Assessment

The recent curriculum changes have meant updates in the way we measure pupil progress in their learning. The system of numeric levels will no longer be used.

The core subjects of Reading, Writing, Maths and Science all now have specific year group expectations that pupils will be assessed against at the end of each year.

There is an emphasis on pupils consolidating and broadening their learning rather than rapid progress along a narrow path. Pupils will be given opportunities to use and apply their skills through practical and relevant learning tasks. Where pupils require additional support or challenge in their learning they may be working within the curriculum outline for other year.

Further Information:

Full National Curriculum document:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum