



The New Primary Curriculum for Primary and Special Schools

What Parents Need to Know

What is the Primary Curriculum?

The curriculum sets out what children should learn and how children learn through the four stages of primary school:

Stage 1: Junior & Senior Infants

Stage 2: 1st & 2nd Class

Stage 3: 3rd & 4th Class

Stage 4: 5th & 6th Class.

Why is there a new curriculum?

The new curriculum is shaped by children, parents, teachers, school leaders, education experts and research. It's vision, as set out in the Primary Curriculum Framework 2023, is to:

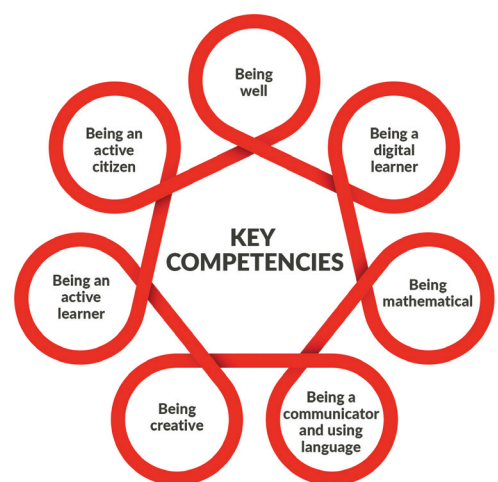
What's new in the curriculum?

The new curriculum is shaped by children, parents, teachers, school leaders, education experts and research. It's vision, as set out in the *Primary Curriculum Framework 2023*, is to:

- Give your child the best possible start, helping them grow, learn, and succeed
- Support your child in reaching their full potential.
- See every child as unique, capable, and caring.
- Recognise that all children have the right to make progress and develop in every area of their learning and growth.

What are the key competencies my child will develop?

The Primary School Curriculum focuses on 7 key competencies for children. These are the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that help them learn and grow. They show how your child develops important life skills through everything they do at school, from playful and engaging lessons to working with others and everyday experiences.





What will my child learn?

- **Language:** Learning a 3rd language at a simple level along with English and Irish. From 3rd Class, your child will explore languages and cultures. From 5th Class, they start a Modern Foreign Language at a basic level.
- **Arts Education:** Your child will explore Art, Music, Drama and other art forms. They will learn about Irish and world cultures.
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Education:** Your child will learn to ask questions, solve problems, and use (STEM) in everyday life.
- **Social & Environmental Education:** Your child will learn about Ireland and the world, through History, Geography, and exploring religions, beliefs, and worldviews. They will also learn how people and the environment are connected.

- **Wellbeing:** In Physical Education (PE) your child will stay active and build healthy habits. In Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE), your child will learn how to get along with others, understand themselves, and stay healthy and safe.

Schools also teach a Patron's Programme, set by the school's patron (the body that establishes and operates the school).

How will the curriculum be introduced?

The curriculum will be introduced gradually. From September 2026, schools will add one new curriculum area each year until they are all in place. This will take about 6-7 years

Will my child's teacher receive training?

Yes. Teachers will be learning new ways of teaching and taking part in courses to support this. The school will let you know when this is happening. Sometimes, schools may need to close for a short time while teachers take part. This training will help give your child a better learning experience.

Why do parents matter?

The new curriculum encourages strong partnerships between parents and schools. When families and schools work together, children do better.

Good communication helps you and your child's teacher share ideas, support learning, and stay informed about your child's progress.

Practical tips and activities to support your child at home across all areas of learning will be made available to you.



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Want to know more?

The What, Why and How of Children's Learning in Primary and Special School - Information for Parents



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