

The New Primary Curriculum

What does it mean for us?

Key Stage Two
Parents' Workshop
10th February 2010

Traditional Schooling

What is the National Curriculum?

The Primary National Curriculum was introduced in 1999 to ensure that children in different schools were receiving a similar style and standard of education.

It is divided into the following subjects:

English, Maths, Science, Design and Technology (DT), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), History, Geography, Art and Design, Music and Physical Education

The Primary Curriculum... more information

The Primary Curriculum covers the broad areas of what children must learn at different stages at primary school.

It covers school Years 1–6. This is broken up into two parts: Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Key Stage 1 - Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 2 - Years 3–6

The National Curriculum does not tell teachers in what order they should teach subjects, or how long to spend on different topics, or how much homework to set. Teachers are free to use different kinds of books and materials in their lessons; the curriculum is not too prescriptive.

Rationale

Why the need for change?

Our curriculum should help children become the very best they can be. **We live in a changing world, and our curriculum has to evolve to prepare our children for the opportunities and challenges of life in the 21st century.**

The content of children's lessons needs to keep up to date with changes in the world. The world has changed dramatically in just 10 years and has been transformed in the last 50 years. It has been 10 years since the last review of the framework. Society is changing fast. Jobs in new areas like computing and telecoms are growing, while older industries offer fewer opportunities.

It is important to let all children learn at a pace that suits them, and the new primary curriculum encourages this approach. More detail in each subject – and more complicated work – will be introduced as teachers feel that children are ready and as their pupils progress through school.

New Primary Curriculum was published on 31 January 2010.

2011 Curriculum

The New Primary Curriculum offers pupils the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world and the skills they will need to flourish in it. They experience the excitement of learning by trying new things, learning from their mistakes and recognising their achievements. The primary curriculum helps pupils to develop the confidence they need to continue as **lifelong learners**.

Six themed areas plan to streamline the curriculum. It will hopefully solve curriculum overload problems.

This new curriculum is organised around six broad areas of learning to help schools and children make coherent links across all their learning. It is a model that advocates direct subject teaching, complemented by serious and challenging cross-curricular studies which provide ample opportunities for children to use and apply their subject knowledge in order to deepen understanding.

The areas of learning will not 'abolish' subjects, such as history or geography. The essential content of these subjects must be taught well in order for children to be able to make links between them, which is what having the six new areas of learning will allow teachers to do.

97% of parents think that reading and writing are the most important skills for their children to learn at primary school.

English, maths, information technology and personal development are central to the primary curriculum.

The Six New Areas of Learning

Subjects will be grouped into six new areas of learning – to help related subjects support each other.

The six areas of learning will support subjects; they will not replace them. The six areas of learning are:

Mathematical understanding

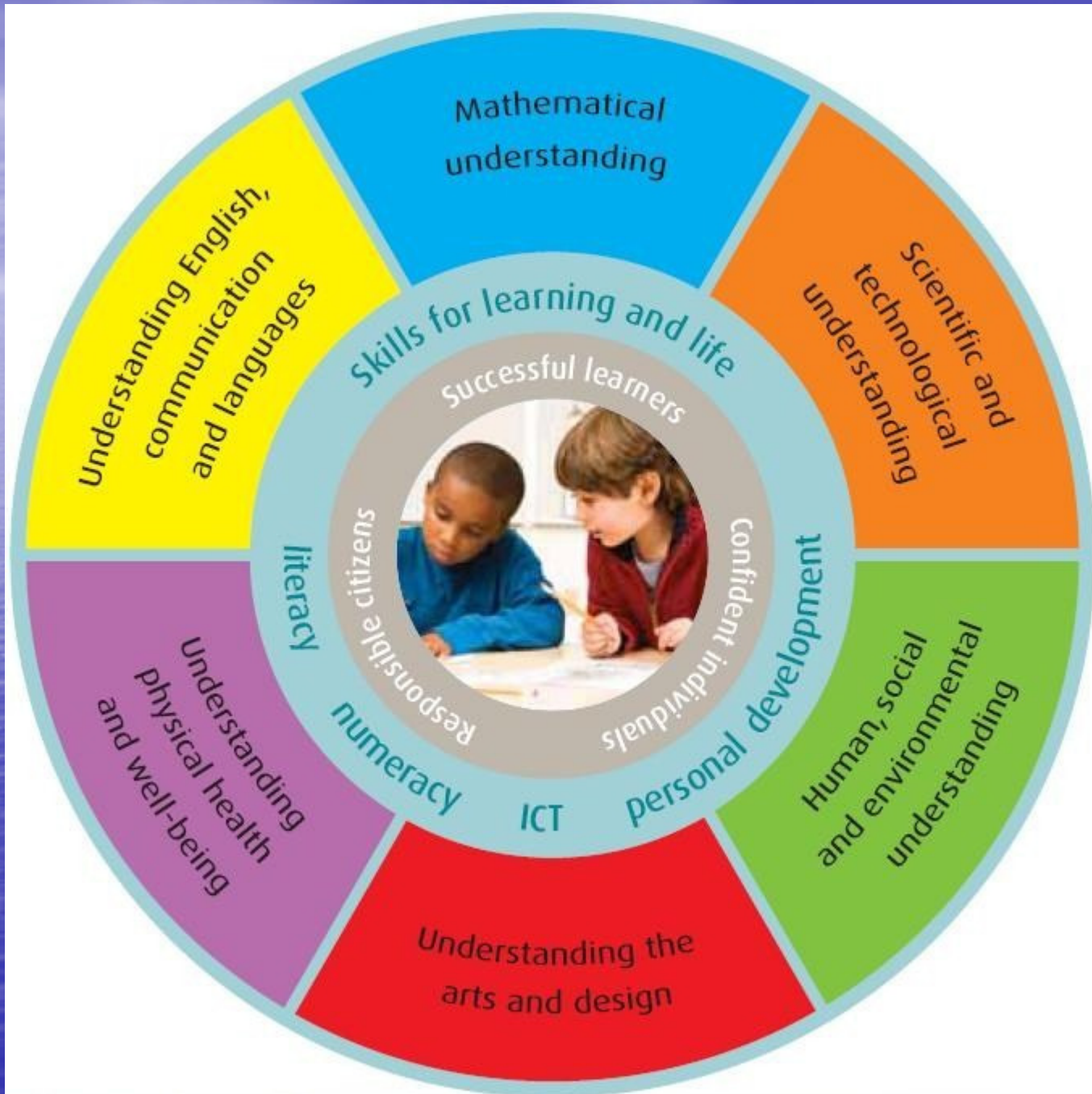
Historical, geographical and social understanding

Understanding English, communication and languages

Scientific and technological understanding

Understanding the arts

Understanding physical development, health and wellbeing.



Teachers will still teach separate subjects, such as maths, music and history, but they will also teach more 'cross-curricular' work – lessons and projects that combine more than one subject or skill. This can make lessons more interesting for children and help them use their knowledge in different situations.

There will be an even stronger focus on English, maths and ICT (information and communication technology). This includes more emphasis on encouraging children to develop their spoken English well and to apply maths in everyday situations, like counting and measuring.

Essential skills for learning and life

Certain essential skills run through each area of learning.
These are:

English – which includes reading, writing, talking and listening

Maths

ICT – which includes using computers to find and share information and using technology to work together.

Personal Development – which involve helping children to grow up happy and healthy. This will emphasise developing children's confidence, enhancing their ability to learn, and helping them to grow up to become responsible adults.

What does it mean?

The New Primary Curriculum does not become compulsory until 2011, but we feel that the teaching and learning at BSA would be further enhanced by moving towards this now.

We have selected topics that we feel will appeal to the children and currently are in a transition stage. **We plan to fully implement the New Primary Curriculum from the September 2010 and are feel confident that we will achieve this goal.**

For more details of the review and the new curriculum please see

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

and

www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation