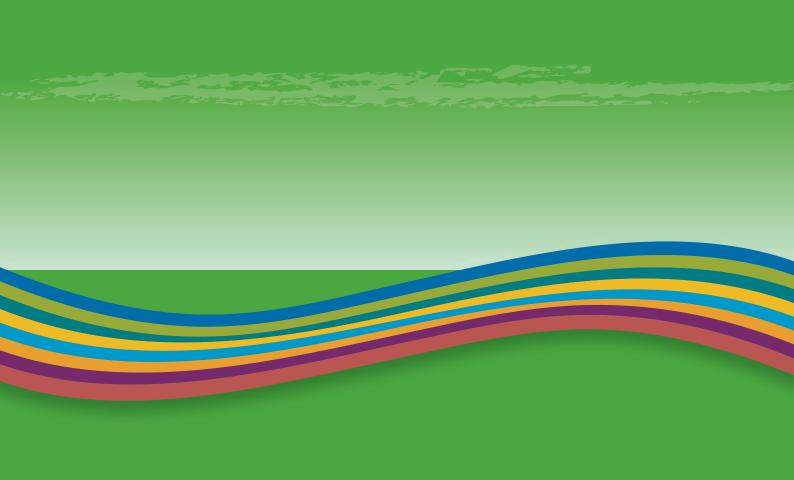


MIDDLE CHILDHOOD (4-7) SYLLABUS



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1 Purpose of the *Middle Childhood* (4-7) Syllabus

1.1 Introduction

The *Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus* is part of a suite of complementary resources designed to support teachers to plan and deliver learning, teaching and assessment programs.

This syllabus contains information about:

- typical characteristics of students in the middle childhood phase of development and suggested approaches to learning, teaching and assessment
- content described in scope and sequence statements relevant to the phase. National Consistency in Curriculum Outcomes (NCCO) Statements of Learning have been embedded in the scope and sequence statements and have been identified with an asterisk
- curriculum planning
- monitoring and assessing student progress.

1.2 Connection with other curriculum policy and support documents

This syllabus provides scope and sequence statements of content that link to the outcomes in the *Curriculum Framework*.

Middle childhood teachers can use this syllabus in conjunction with the *Curriculum Framework Curriculum Guides*. By using the *Guides* in conjunction with this syllabus, middle childhood teachers will have access to a range of content that they can use to meet the learning needs and interests of a range of students.

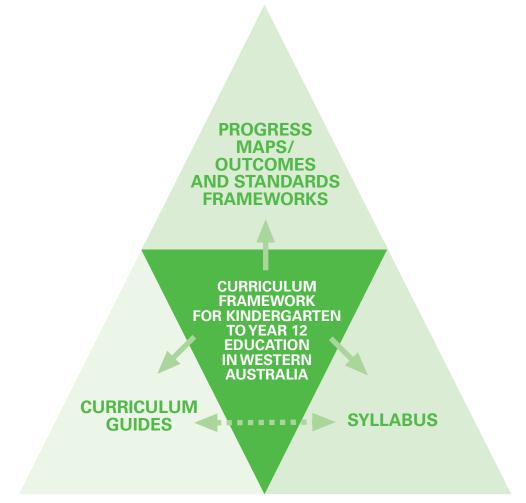
NCCO Statements of Learning were agreed by the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs in April 2006. These Statements of Learning provide a means of achieving greater national consistency in curriculum outcomes across all States and Territories. Statements of Learning have been agreed for the following areas:

- Civics and Citizenship
- English
- Information and Communication
 Technologies (ICT)
- Mathematics
- Science.

Teachers continue to use progress maps (*Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/Outcomes and Standards Frameworks*) to monitor students' progressive achievement of learning outcomes and may use other tools as appropriate to students' development, achievement and the context of the school.

This syllabus provides advice on the year of schooling in which knowledge, skills and understandings would typically be introduced. Teachers' monitoring and assessment will inform their planning and assist with decisions about the specific knowledge, skills and understandings they teach their students. Middle childhood teachers will continue to exercise their professional judgement in making these decisions.

The following diagram illustrates the connections among the *Curriculum Framework*, *Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/Outcomes and Standards Frameworks*, *Curriculum Framework Curriculum Guides* and this syllabus.



Connections among the Curriculum Framework, the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/Outcomes and Standards Frameworks, the Curriculum Framework Curriculum Guides and the Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus

1.3 Inclusive planning

As they plan, middle childhood teachers recognise and accommodate the different starting points, learning rates and previous experiences of individuals or groups of students.

Ensuring that there is provision of a balanced curriculum for all students includes identifying the learning needs of individuals and groups as part of the process of classroom planning. Some groups or individuals, relatively few in number, may require a Documented Plan that provides a practical, explicit and succinct focus for learning. Most students will not require a long or detailed Plan.

Individuals and groups that could require a Documented Plan include:

- students for whom English is a second language or dialect
- students with disabilities
- · students with learning difficulties
- gifted and talented students.

Documented Plans focus on learning and teaching adjustments in order to promote learning, participation or curriculum access, and may include:

- differences in the level of complexity of instructional materials or tasks
- alternative means of presentation or response to activities or assessments

- adapted content or expectations in class activities
- acceleration, which may be across the curriculum or single-subject acceleration
- flexible groupings within the class
- encouragement/explicit teaching of critical and creative thinking
- individual research
- enrichment and extension activities
- specialist support, such as visiting teachers or master classes
- teachers and parents planning together to ensure that learning outcomes and content reflect the learning needs of students.

2 Students' learning in the middle childhood phase of development

2.1 Typical characteristics of students in the middle childhood phase of development

Students in this phase of development begin to see themselves as members of larger communities. They work collaboratively and have greater interaction with people inside and outside their classroom. They begin to understand and appreciate different points of view and are interested in people from other times, places and cultures.

In this phase of development, students develop the ability to think in more abstract terms. They ask more focused questions. They carry out investigations, test them for appropriateness and then reflect on their new findings and also on the process or work practice used. Greater responsibility is given to students for managing and organising classroom activities.

As in the earlier years, learning activities will often be integrated across learning areas. Students in the middle childhood phase explore a wider range of technologies, forms of communication and methods of representing information. They develop a

better grasp of written language and numeric conventions and use these in many ways to achieve learning outcomes.

Students develop and achieve in different ways, and at different rates. It is important that learning and teaching experiences build upon each student's understandings, skills, values and experiences.

2.2 Learning and teaching

The Curriculum Framework provides advice about approaches to learning, teaching and assessment that are based on research and professional knowledge about learning. When using this syllabus to plan, teachers can make reference to the sections on learning and teaching in the Curriculum Framework overarching and learning area statements. This will assist with ensuring that pedagogical approaches are relevant to students' developmental stages as well as to learning within and across outcomes and learning areas.

Middle childhood teachers use their expertise to establish a supportive learning environment, identify their students' learning needs, and make decisions on what to teach and how to teach it. In doing this, they draw on everything they know about their students, about the curriculum and about good teaching practice. They work in partnership with other teachers, students, their families and the community.

The following table outlines suggestions for incorporation of the *Curriculum Framework's* principles of effective learning and teaching in the middle childhood phase.

Suggested approaches to learning and teaching

Principles of learning and teaching	Strategies middle childhood teachers can use to implement the principles
Opportunity to learn Learning experiences should enable students to observe and practise the actual processes, products, skills and values which are expected of them.	 Include authentic, rich tasks which require group planning and interaction enabling students to observe and practise skills learnt. Allow students to carry out investigations in which they make predictions and form hypotheses, test them and reflect on their findings. Provide students with repeated opportunities to encounter new learning in a wide variety of different tasks and contexts, so that they can apply their knowledge in new situations.
Connection and challenge Learning experiences should connect with students' existing knowledge, skills and values while extending and challenging their current ways of thinking and acting.	 Enable students to make connections across learning areas through integration, as well as making connections to what they know and to the wider world. Enable students to explore different behaviours, values, languages, cultures and social practices both directly and through investigations.
Action and reflection Learning experiences should be meaningful and encourage both action and reflection on the part of the learner. Motivation and purpose Learning experiences should be motivating and their purpose clear to the student.	 Enable students to take increased responsibility for their learning by explicitly modelling goal setting and self reflection. Provide feedback to students as a basis for future learning. Enable students to relate new learning to what they already know, adapt it for their own purposes and translate their thoughts into actions. Enable students to negotiate a curriculum that meets their needs. Encourage higher-order thinking skills. Use a wide range of technologies and different forms of
Inclusivity and difference Learning experiences should respect and accommodate differences between learners.	 Take into account the interests, cultural backgrounds, learning styles and ability levels of students. Include activities which require group planning, decision making and interaction with people inside and outside the classroom.
Independence and collaboration Learning experiences should encourage students to learn both independently and from and with others.	 Engage students in shared activities and conversations with other people, including family members and people in the wider community. Encourage collaborative and independent learning, sensible risk taking and explicit teaching of social skills.
Supportive environment The school and classroom setting should be safe and conducive to effective learning.	 Encourage students to accept others, form positive relationships with peers and teachers. Further develop students' understanding of the value to respect the rights of others.

2.3 The middle childhood student in The Arts

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- establish a sense of both personal and group identity through the arts forms of dance, drama, media, music and visual arts
- continue to use play as a major source for inspiration, creative expression and imagination
- start with concrete and practical ideas and develop abstract and symbolic representation
- become adept at using more complex arts skills, techniques and processes
- begin to focus on detail and complexity
- are able to make critical responses to their own arts experiences in simple but accurate terms using arts form specific language and terminology
- are able to respond to and reflect on the arts works of others
- are able, with guidance, to gain an expanding awareness of The Arts in Australia and the wider global community.

Middle childhood teachers:

provide programs in the arts forms
 which reflect specific and challenging
 activities requiring persistence,
 coordination and improvisation

- guide students to use technologies safely
- provide experiences in a wide range of relevant authentic arts works.

2.4 The middle childhood student in English

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- become more independent listeners, readers, writers, speakers and viewers
- participate in informal oral activities such as small group work, formal reporting and improvised oral and dramatic presentations
- participate, plan and rehearse formal oral presentations such as speeches, debates, choral productions and plays as well as roles in school assemblies as their skills develop
- apply a wide range of reading strategies to different texts and purposes, and use their knowledge of textual and generic conventions when dealing with new texts
- experiment with written language to produce more complex imaginative and informal texts
- write for a purpose and audience when drafting, editing and proofreading work
- use written language for argumentative and persuasive purposes

- identify and reflect on their own values and opinions as well as drawing conclusions and making judgements on their work
- expand their vocabularies and use specialist words in different situations.

Middle childhood teachers:

- provide opportunities to learn writing, reading, viewing and speaking and listening skills in a variety of contexts
- expose students to a wider range of texts
- explicitly teach strategies for comprehending complex texts and unfamiliar content.

2.5 The middle childhood student in Health and Physical Education

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- build on prior learning and experiences
 to gain more detailed understandings
 of their personal health, growth and
 development, and the changes that
 occur from childhood, through puberty,
 to adulthood
- become more social and learn to further develop and extend relationships with peers, friends and adults
- begin to accept personal responsibility for their health and physical activity

 accomplish fundamental movement skills enabling them to develop confidence and competence in specific skills for more complex physical activity.

Middle childhood teachers:

- provide students with opportunities
 to practise interpersonal and selfmanagement skills and the strategies to
 manage physical, social and emotional
 changes. This will develop students'
 resilience and can be done using
 teaching strategies such as role plays,
 class discussions and cooperative
 learning
- provide opportunities for regular physical activity in the form of minor games, fitness-based activities, gymnastics, water safety and outdoor pursuits
- ensure that safe practices and basic strategies and tactics are taught so that students will experience success in physical activity environments.

2.6 The middle childhood student in Languages (LOTE)

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- develop understandings of the concepts in different languages
- build on their language learning and communication skills through using the knowledge and conventions of one language to assist them in understanding other languages

- begin to notice and understand similarities and differences between their own language and culture and those of others
- are eager to interact and work collaboratively with peers, which increases their ability to process the language.

Middle childhood teachers focus on developing students' listening, speaking, reading and viewing skills.

At the beginning of the phase, students:

- engage with simple texts from familiar contexts
- interact in intercultural contexts that relate mainly to themselves and their environment
- may respond non-verbally to the target language.

During this phase, students' level of sophistication of comprehension and production of texts increases. This is evident when students:

- process more complex spoken, written and/or visual texts
- respond by identifying specific detail
- give short, formulaic spoken answers in the target language.

When exploring texts in Languages (LOTE), students typically are not expected to

understand all of the target language they are exposed to.

2.7 The middle childhood student in Mathematics

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- use physical materials, pictures, calculators and informal pen-and-pencil strategies to solve problems at the beginning of this phase
- understand that one idea, like multiplication, can apply to many different 'real' situations
- may generalise from their investigations, for example, that the area of a rectangle is the length multiplied by the breadth
- develop a large range of strategies to help them solve problems
- are able to make choices from their experiences, about the necessary operation needed to solve problems.

Middle childhood teachers:

- present problems related to students' immediate physical or social world so that learning has personal meaning and significance
- encourage students to persist with problems, to ask questions, to take care with and to check their work
- provide opportunities to investigate mathematical ideas and relationships

 provide opportunities for students to make conjectures and test them by the end of this phase.

2.8 The middle childhood student in Science

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- like to work collaboratively by planning and discussing investigations with their peers
- are able to deal with more than one concept at a time, but most students will still find it difficult to comprehend abstract concepts
- pose questions that are relevant and meaningful to them
- with practise, become less likely to guess, and more likely to predict the outcomes of their investigations.

Middle childhood teachers:

- involve students in structured investigations as Working Scientifically continues to be a central part of learning, teaching and assessment programs
- teach Science concepts in technological and problem-solving contexts allowing links to be made across learning areas
- provide students with opportunities
 to think about Science events and
 processes so that they can begin to
 make links between Science at school,
 at home and in the community.

2.9 The middle childhood student in Society and Environment

In the middle childhood phase of development, students:

- develop a greater depth and breadth of knowledge about societies and environments
- make simplistic links between cause and effect
- provide supporting evidence and begin to generalise beyond the specific contexts of an investigation
- begin to see the interdependence between people and environments
- increasingly make value judgements about environmental issues
- become aware of the beliefs, practices and interactions of people, cultures and nature
- understand there are significant people, events and ideas in the past and present
- recognise the ways in which beliefs and traditions impact upon Australian institutions, government, law and culture
- begin to recognise the interrelationships between systems.

Middle childhood teachers:

 seek to expand students' knowledge and understandings of the world through social inquiry

- foster greater awareness of the connections between local, national and international contexts
- provide opportunities for students to develop dispositions towards, and understandings of, the principles of sustainability, democratic process and social justice
- encourage students to be active citizens who participate appropriately in community, regional and/or global issues.

2.10 The middle childhood student in Technology and Enterprise

In the middle childhood phase, students:

- want to know how things work and want to make things that work
- understand that the different elements of the Technology Process (Investigating, Devising, Producing and Evaluating) are interdependent and can be practiced in any sequence
- begin to identify the advantages and disadvantages of technologies and understand that technologies have key design features and functions which may suit many different environments and situations
- continue to examine the properties and alternative uses of a range of materials

- select and use tools, equipment and techniques appropriate to working with a variety of materials
- test materials for their functional and aesthetic properties as well as their suitability and sustainability when considering design requirements.

Middle childhood teachers:

- provide learning, teaching and assessment programs that support divergent thinking and encourage creative solutions to problems
- provide opportunities to develop skills such as using hand-held tools or organising information
- teach safe and efficient selection and use of materials
- provide rich learning opportunities so that enterprising behaviours and attitudes can be developed and practised.

3 Content

3.1 The focus of learning in the middle childhood phase of development

The *Curriculum Framework* outcomes articulate outcomes across eight learning areas to support a broad general education from kindergarten to year 12. Within each phase of development, schools plan and deliver learning, teaching and assessment programs to meet the developmental and contextual needs of children.

Using this syllabus, middle childhood teachers and schools will be able to:

- connect with learning in the early childhood and the early adolescence phases
- continue to use the Curriculum

 Framework, Curriculum Framework

 Curriculum Guides and the Curriculum

 Framework Progress Maps/Outcomes

 and Standards Frameworks to plan

 balanced learning, teaching and

 assessment programs that meet the

 developmental learning needs of

 students in the context of each school.

3.2 National and state priorities for learning

Content has been embedded, where relevant, across all scope and sequence statements within this syllabus in accordance with agreed national and state priorities.

The following cross-curriculum areas provide a basis for future learning and competence in life. Further advice is provided about integration of these cross-curriculum areas in Part 4 of this syllabus: Planning for learning in the middle childhood phase of development.

Literacy

Literacy is the ability to read and use written information and to write appropriately in a range of contexts. It also involves the integration of speaking, listening, viewing and critical thinking with reading and writing. It includes the cultural knowledge that enables a speaker, writer or reader to recognise and use language appropriate to different social situations.

The development of students' literacy skills and understandings is the responsibility of all teachers in all learning areas, and opportunities should be provided for students

to develop literacy across the curriculum.

The teaching of English, however, plays a particularly important role.

Numeracy

Numeracy is the ability to effectively apply Mathematics in everyday, recreational, work and civic life. It is vital to the quality of participation in society.

In order to be numerate, students have the right to learn Mathematics and the language of Mathematics, to make sense of Mathematics, to be confident in their use of Mathematics, and to see how it can help them make sense of their world and the world of others.

Numeracy is a fundamental component of learning across all areas of the curriculum. The development and enhancement of students' numeracy skills and understandings is the responsibility of all teachers. The teaching of Mathematics, however, plays a particularly important role.

Civics and Citizenship

All students need opportunities to develop their understandings of, and commitment to, Australia's democratic system of government, law and civic life.

Middle childhood teachers can achieve this by assisting students to develop the capacity to clarify and critically examine the values and principles of Australian democracy and the ways in which it contributes to a fair and just society and sustainable future. As well, teachers should assist students to develop the knowledge, skills and values that enable them to act as informed and responsible citizens.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Applying ICT as a tool for learning provides students with opportunities to become competent, discriminating, creative and productive users of ICT. Students' learning can be enhanced through integration of ICT across the curriculum. Students develop knowledge, skills and the capacity to select and use ICT to inquire, develop new understandings, create, and communicate with others.

Through learning with ICT, students have opportunities to understand the impact of ICT on society and to use ICT as a means of participating in society.

Values

People's values influence their behaviour and give meaning and purpose to their lives. While there is a range of value positions in society, there is also a core of shared values. These values are embedded in the learning outcomes in the *Curriculum Framework*. These shared values can be summarised as follows:

 a pursuit of knowledge and a commitment to achievement of potential

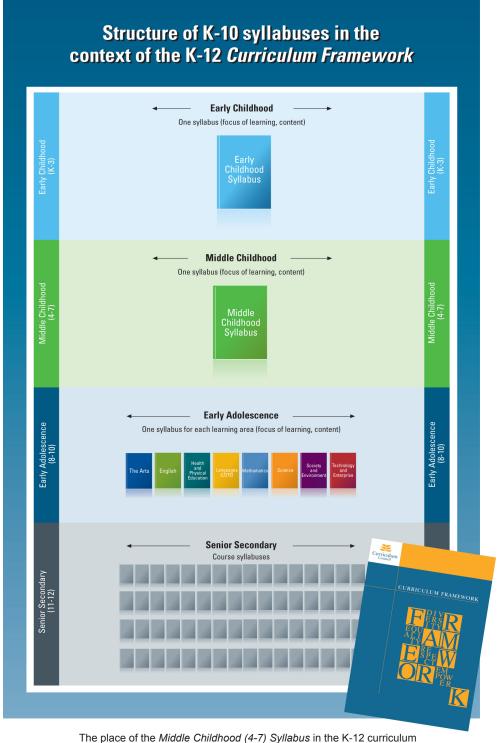
- self acceptance and respect of self
- respect and concern for others and their rights
- · social and civic responsibility
- environmental responsibility.

Physical activity

Physical activity is movement of the body that expends energy. It includes high intensity activities such as sports and dance, as well as low intensity activities such as walking, climbing and exploring. Physical education is an essential part of quality physical activity opportunities. Physical activity can be incorporated into learning across the curriculum, providing students with opportunities to practise skills and increase fitness levels. Students are required to participate in at least two hours of physical activity per week.

3.3 The place of the Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus in the K-12 curriculum

This syllabus articulates content and approaches to learning, teaching and assessment that are a part of the kindergarten to year 12 approach embodied in the Curriculum Framework. The following diagram indicates the place of this syllabus in the overall K-12 curriculum for Western Australian schools.



3.4 Overview of The Arts learning area

What is The Arts about?

The Arts learning area focuses student learning on Arts Practice and Arts Understanding. Through The Arts, students develop creative ways of expressing themselves and communicating with others.

Arts Practice involves the exploration and development of ideas and feelings through the use of a range of skills, and knowledge of arts techniques and processes. The Arts provide a powerful means of expression and communication of life experiences and imagination.

Arts Understanding helps students to appreciate and critically respond to their arts experiences. Students gain a sense of personal and cultural identity through critical appreciation of their own arts works and those of others. They come to understand broader questions about the values and attitudes held by individuals and communities.

Arts Practice and Arts Understanding are interrelated and are developed through the arts forms of dance, drama, media, music and visual arts and can be experienced singularly or in combinations. Each of the arts forms has its own unique language, conventions, processes and techniques.

In dance, students learn expressive movements using body, space, time and

energy through participating in the key activities of choreography, performance and reflection.

In drama, students learn to take on roles and act out situations through the key activities of play making, performance and critical reflection.

In media, students learn how to communicate with print, film and electronic media through participating in the key activities of creation, production and analysis.

In music, students learn how to make music through sounds and silence using voice, body, acoustic and electronic means through the key activities of creation, performance and reflection.

In visual arts, students learn how to produce 2D, 3D and 4D (time-based) arts works through the interrelated key activities of visual inquiry, studio practice, exhibition and reflection.

Why teach The Arts?

Teaching The Arts provides students with the opportunity to:

- imaginatively explore, express and communicate ideas, feelings and experiences
- critically reflect and make personal meaning engaging the senses, imagination and feelings

- engage in creative problem solving, self expression and the use of imagination to develop personal, social and cultural understandings
- develop creative and physical talents through spatial, rhythmic, visual and kinaesthetic awareness
- develop self awareness, and understanding of their own and others' cultures, values and attitudes
- expand life skills such as conflict resolution, creative problem solving, negotiation and teamwork
- provide support for concurrent learning in other learning areas
- acquire knowledge, skills and understandings essential for success in further study of The Arts.

How is The Arts learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework The Arts Learning
Area Statement consists of four interrelated
and interconnected outcomes:

- Arts Ideas
- Arts Skills and Processes
- Arts Responses
- Arts in Society.

Content for these outcomes focuses on Arts Understanding and Arts Practice developed through the arts forms of dance, drama, media, music and visual arts. As students progress in The Arts they demonstrate the outcomes in increasingly complex ways, through one or more of the arts forms.

Learning in Arts Practice enables students to achieve the Arts Ideas and Arts Skills and Processes outcomes. Learning in Arts Understanding enables students to achieve the Arts Responses and Arts in Society outcomes.

Organisation of content

The content of Arts Understanding and Arts
Practice needs to be addressed concurrently,
using contexts for learning appropriate to the
students' phase of development and their
previous experience. Teaching in The Arts
follows a spiral model in which the same
concepts, processes and strategies are dealt
with in increasingly complex ways as students
develop. In some cases, progress in learning
is facilitated by the teaching of more complex
elements and forms. In other cases, the
content of the teaching is the same from year
to year and progression is achieved through
greater proficiency in practice, greater depth
of understanding and greater maturity.

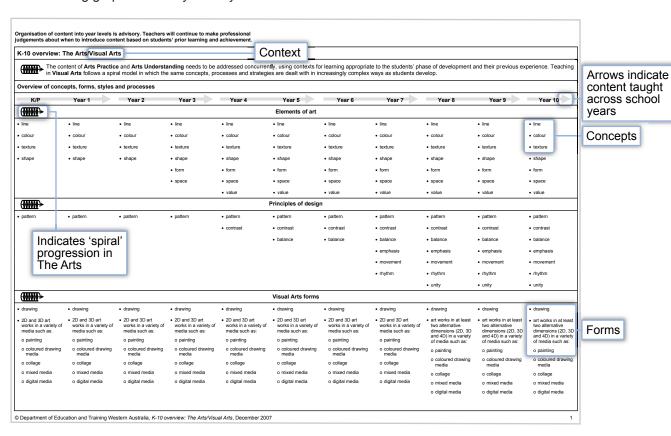
Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews for each of The Arts forms
- scope and sequence statements.

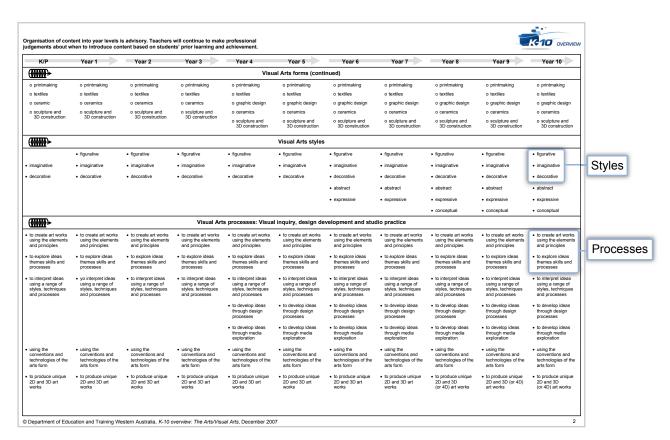
K-10 overviews

K-10 overviews have been developed for the arts forms of dance, drama, media, music and visual arts, to provide teachers with a map of the concepts, forms and processes to be taught. Presentation of the overviews will vary between the arts forms because each has its own language and way of organising the content. Linked arrows indicate the spiral nature of the learning from year to year.

The following graphics identify the key features of The Arts K-10 overviews.



Key features of The Arts K-10 overviews



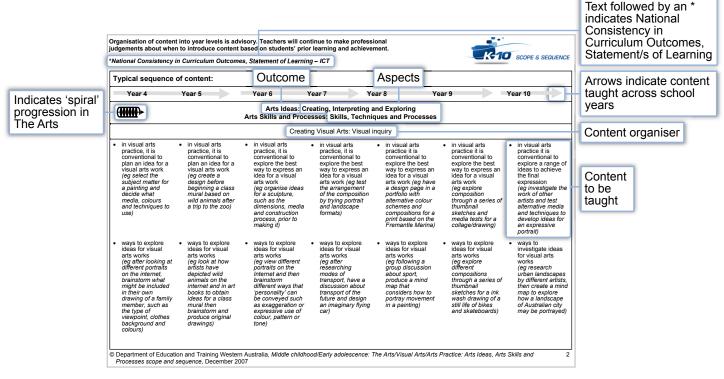
Key features of The Arts K-10 overviews (continued)

Scope and sequence statements

The Arts scope and sequence statements in this syllabus identify the typical sequence of content for teaching in the middle childhood phase for dance, drama, media, music and visual arts. While content is organised into year levels this is advisory. Teachers will continue to make professional judgements about when to introduce content based on children's prior learning and achievement. Linked arrows indicate the spiral nature of the learning from year to year.

Scope and sequence statements are contained in two documents for each arts form: Arts Practice and Arts Understanding. Arts Practice addresses the Arts Ideas and Arts Skills and Processes outcomes. Arts Understanding addresses the Arts Responses and Arts in Society outcomes. Presentation of scope and sequence statements will vary between the arts forms because each has its own language and way of organising the content.

The scope and sequence statements are organised to assist teachers' planning for learning in The Arts. The following graphic identifies the key features of The Arts scope and sequence statements.



Key features of The Arts scope and sequence statements

3.5 Overview of the English learning area

What is English about?

In the English learning area, students learn about the English language, how it works and how to use it effectively. They develop an understanding of the ways in which language operates as a social process and how to use language in a variety of forms and situations. They learn to speak, listen, view, read and write effectively.

Why teach English?

Teaching English provides students with opportunities to:

- learn to control and understand the conventions of Standard Australian English
- use language to communicate, think, learn and create in order to develop personally and play an active role in society
- reflect on and critically analyse their own use of language and the language of others.

How is the English learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework English Learning
Area Statement has nine interrelated
outcomes:

- Understanding Language
- Attitudes, Values and Beliefs
- Conventions

- Processes and Strategies
- Listening
- Speaking
- Viewing
- Reading
- Writing.

Middle childhood teachers integrate content for all nine outcomes to promote a holistic approach to learning about English.

Organisation of content

Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews of suggested text types for each English learning outcome
- scope and sequence statements.

K-10 overviews

Kindergarten to year 10 overviews of text types are provided to facilitate developmentally appropriate planning and delivery of learning, teaching and assessment programs. The text types in English provide the contexts for the teaching of language conventions, contextual understandings and the processes and strategies in English. These overviews are designed to support teachers to provide opportunities for students to study a range of spoken, print and visual texts. The texts identified in the overviews increase in complexity across K-10, where appropriate, matching the content in the scope and sequence statements.

Teachers will need to exercise their professional judgement when selecting specific texts to ensure that they engage students, suit students' development and allow teaching at an appropriate level of complexity. This is particularly the case when text types are repeated across scope and sequence statements.

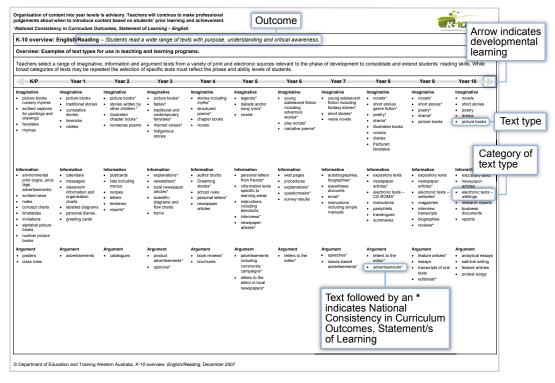
The overviews identify texts grouped into the following categories:

- imaginative
- information
- argument.

The texts that students study as part of their learning in English should address a range of issues, values, attitudes and topics from a variety of perspectives, including Australian, popular, traditional, contemporary and multicultural.

Middle childhood teachers can use the K-10 overviews to plan programs of learning, teaching and assessment that incorporate an appropriate range of text types to support students' continued successful learning and enable them to advance to higher levels of study. Texts chosen for students whose literacy levels are outside the expected range need to be age and developmentally appropriate.

The following graphic identifies the key features of the K-10 overviews for English.



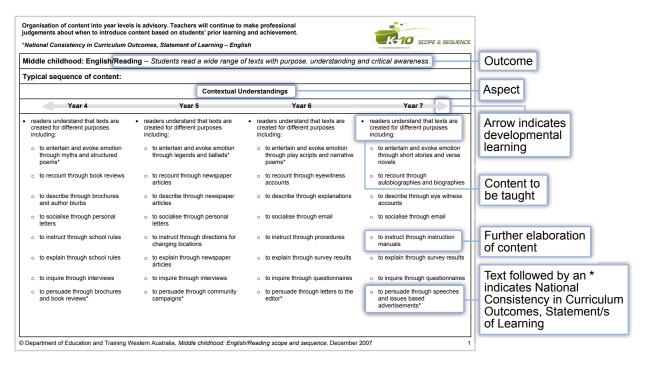
Key features of English K-10 overviews

Scope and sequence statements

The content in the scope and sequence statements for English is expressed at specific year levels to provide middle childhood teachers with advice on starting points for development of learning, teaching and assessment programs. Teachers will use their knowledge of students' progressive achievement to make their own decisions about when it is appropriate to introduce content to individuals and groups of students.

The scope and sequence statements for English in this syllabus integrate Understanding Language, Attitudes, Values and Beliefs, Conventions, Processes and Strategies into the Listening and Speaking, Viewing, Reading and Writing outcomes. This organisation of the scope and sequence statements reflects the organisation of the outcomes in the *Curriculum Framework Progress Maps – English/Outcomes and Standards Framework – English.*

The scope and sequence statements are organised to assist middle childhood teachers' planning for learning, teaching and assessment. The following graphic identifies the key features of the English scope and sequence statements.



Key features of English scope and sequence statements

3.6 Overview of the Health and Physical Education learning area

What is Health and Physical Education about?

Health and Physical Education provides opportunities for students to develop lifelong understandings of health issues and the skills needed for confident participation in sport and recreational activities. This enables students to make responsible decisions about health and physical activity and to promote their own and others' health and well-being.

Why teach Health and Physical Education?

Teaching Health and Physical Education provides students with opportunities to:

- enhance lifelong attitudes to health and fitness
- enjoy physical activity and develop relevant skills
- identify values and attitudes and their effects on themselves and others
- recognise health issues for themselves and others in the community and adopt appropriate change
- enhance personal development
- identify cultural differences and their impact
- acquire foundation knowledge and skills essential for success within the Health and Physical Education learning area and for further study.

How is the Health and Physical Education learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework Health and
Physical Education Learning Area Statement
has five interrelated outcomes:

- Knowledge and Understandings
- Attitudes and Values
- Skills for Physical Activity
- Self-management Skills
- Interpersonal Skills.

Middle childhood teachers integrate content for all five outcomes to promote a holistic approach to learning about Health and Physical Education.

Organisation of content

Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overview of contexts and topics
- integrated scope and sequence of contexts, topics and outcomes.

K-10 overview of contexts and topics

Kindergarten to year 10 overview of suggested contexts and topics in this syllabus provides opportunities for flexible planning and delivery. This overview is designed to support middle childhood teachers to provide students with an understanding of health issues and the skills needed for confident participation in activities. In addition, they enable students to make responsible decisions about health and physical activity and to promote their own and others' health and well-being.

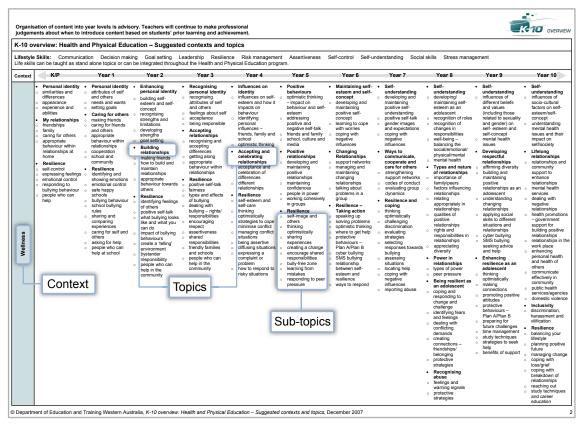
The K-10 overview consists of eleven broad context areas. The overview identifies topics grouped under the following contexts:

- Lifestyle skills
- Wellness
- Growth and Development and Sexual Health
- Lifestyle Choices
- Drug Education
- Safety
- Fundamental Movement
- Strategies and Tactics
- Playing the Game
- Health Related Fitness and Recreation
- Outdoor Education.

Lifestyle skills can be taught independently or in an integrated Health and Physical Education program. A balanced Health and Physical Education program will incorporate topics from each of the contexts. It is not intended that topics are addressed independently. Topics from different contexts can be taught concurrently, eg heart health could be taught in Growth and Development/ Sexual Health or the Lifestyle Choices context.

It is recommended that the content that students are taught as part of their learning in Health and Physical Education is drawn from a range of different contexts and topics, to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their achievement of outcomes in an integrated way.

The following graphic identifies the key features of the K-10 overview of contexts and topics for Health and Physical Education.



Key features of Health and Physical Education K-10 overview

Integrated scope and sequence statement

The integrated scope and sequence statement is structured to reflect teachers' integrated planning for learning in Health and Physical Education. It is organised as follows:

Contexts

Within each context are a series of recommended topics that apply to that context. If necessary topics can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of the student or the school.

Outcomes

The content component from the relevant outcomes that could be taught within the context and topics.

Content

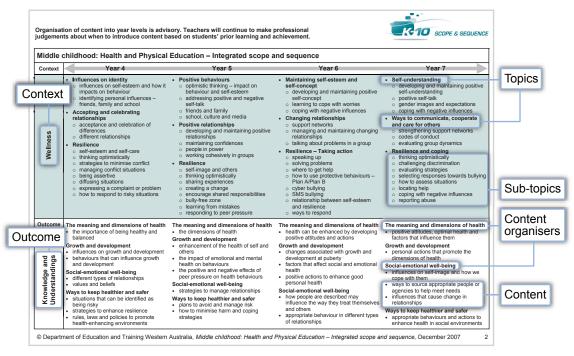
The content in the scope and sequence statement is expressed at specific year levels to provide teachers with advice on starting points for the development of learning, teaching and assessment programs.

Organisation of content into year levels is advisory. Teachers will continue to make professional judgements about when to introduce content based on children's prior learning and achievement.

The integrated scope and sequence statement for Health and Physical Education integrates Knowledge and Understandings, Attitudes and Values, Skills for Physical Activity, Self-management Skills and Interpersonal Skills.

The integrated scope and sequence statement enables teachers to map outcomes to contexts and topics thus ensuring students have opportunities to demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes across the Health and Physical Education learning area.

The scope and sequence statement is organised to assist teachers' planning for learning, teaching and assessment. The following graphic identifies the key features of the Health and Physical Education scope and sequence statement.



Key features of the integrated Health and Physical Education scope and sequence statement

3.7 Overview of the Languages (LOTE) learning area

What is Languages (LOTE) about?

In Languages (LOTE) students learn how to communicate appropriately in languages other than English. All languages have their own particular features and underlying cultural understandings that shape communication, and enable the achievement of a range of communicative purposes.

Why teach Languages (LOTE)?

Teaching Languages (LOTE) provides students with opportunities to:

- communicate and interact effectively with people from other cultural backgrounds
- develop literacy skills through identifying similarities and differences between English and other languages
- enhance their critical literacy skills by providing different text types to explore and the means to understand them
- develop their intercultural language skills through examination of, and reflection on, their own language(s) and culture(s) and those of other societies
- enhance their self esteem by valuing and acknowledging the importance of other languages
- acquire foundation knowledge and practical skills that are essential for further language studies.

How is the Languages (LOTE) learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework Languages
Other Than English Learning Area Statement
consists of six interrelated outcomes grouped
into two clusters.

Three communication outcomes:

- Listening and Responding, and Speaking
- Viewing, Reading and Responding
- Writing.

Three knowledge and skills outcomes:

- The System of the Target Language
- Cultural Understandings
- Language Learning Strategies.

Organisation of content

Content in this syllabus is organised into a scope and sequence statement for:

- Chinese
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese.

Scope and sequence statements

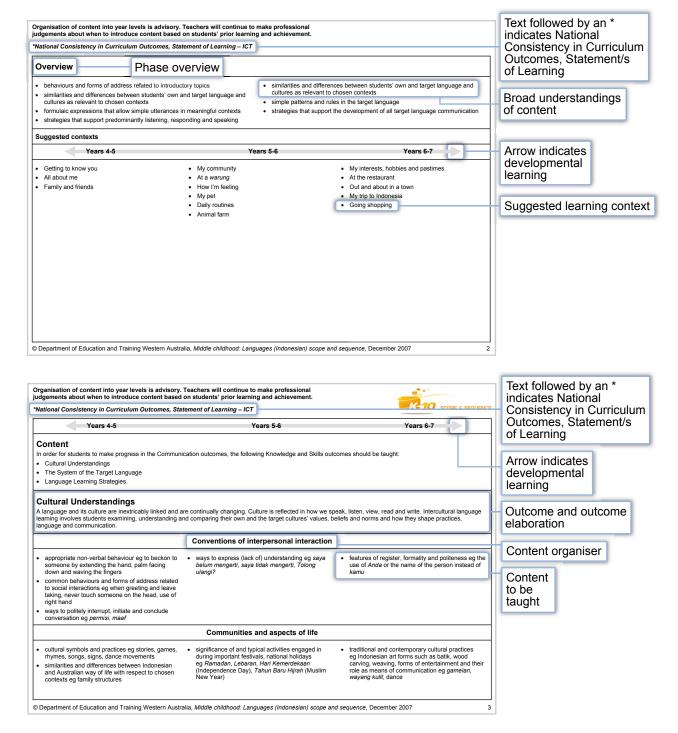
The scope and sequence statements identify the scope of content that students typically should be taught during the middle childhood phase for the selected target languages.

The content in the scope and sequence statement, for each target language is expressed at specific year levels to provide teachers with advice on starting points for the development of learning, teaching and assessment programs. Middle childhood teachers will use their knowledge of students' progressive achievement to make their own decisions about when it is appropriate to introduce content to individuals and groups of students.

Each Languages (LOTE) scope and sequence statement incorporates suggested contexts, with accompanying suggested vocabulary groups and text types.

In the scope and sequence statements the knowledge and skills outcomes are used as the content organisers. They provide the typical sequence of content to be taught in order for students to demonstrate achievement in the communications outcomes. The knowledge and skills outcomes are embedded in the communication outcomes and should be taught in a holistic way.

The scope and sequence statements are organised to assist teachers' planning for learning in Languages (LOTE). The following graphics identify the key features of the Languages (LOTE) scope and sequence statements.



Key features of Languages (LOTE) scope and sequence statements

3.8 Overview of the Mathematics learning area

What is Mathematics about?

'Mathematics is often defined as the science of space and number ... [but] a more apt definition [is that] Mathematics is the science of patterns. The mathematician seeks patterns in number, in space, in science, in computers, and in imagination. Mathematical theories explain the relations among patterns ... Applications of Mathematics use these patterns to 'explain' and predict natural phenomena ...' (Steen, LA, 1988, "The science of patterns", Science, 240, 29, 616. cited in Curriculum Council, 1998, pp 178)

Mathematics involves observing, representing and investigating patterns and relationships in social and physical phenomena and between mathematical objects themselves. In the Mathematics learning area, teachers teach about Mathematics, what it is and how it is used in making decisions and solving problems.

Why teach Mathematics?

Teaching Mathematics provides students with opportunities to:

- see the Mathematics in situations encountered and choose appropriate Mathematics
- think creatively, critically, strategically and logically
- plan, investigate, make conjectures and decide on levels of accuracy

- reason inventively, analyse options and consider the consequences and implications of decisions
- understand the cultural and historical significance of Mathematics
- provide support for concurrent learning in other learning areas
- acquire knowledge, skills and understandings essential for success in further study of Mathematics.

How is the Mathematics learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework Mathematics
Learning Area Statement has nineteen
outcomes. These are grouped into seven
clusters:

- Appreciating Mathematics
- Working Mathematically
- Number
- Measurement
- Chance and Data
- Space
- Algebra.

Organisation of content

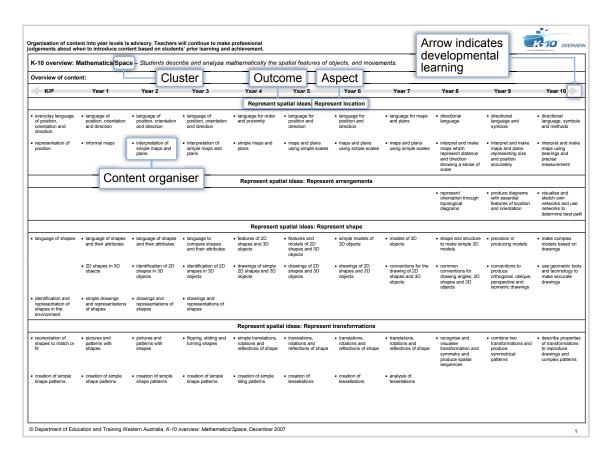
Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews of each scope and sequence statement, except Working Mathematically
- scope and sequence statements.

K-10 overviews

Kindergarten to year 10 overviews are provided in this syllabus to facilitate developmentally appropriate planning and delivery of learning and teaching programs. These overviews are designed to provide middle childhood teachers with a clear map of the progression of content. They will enable teachers to select content from syllabuses for other phases of development, if this is appropriate to support student learning.

The following graphic identifies the key features of the Mathematics K-10 overviews.



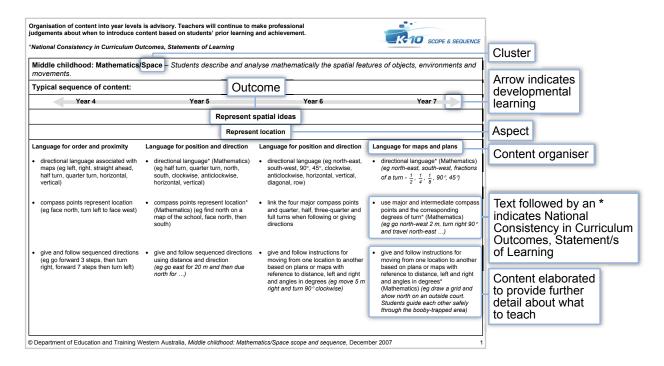
Key features of Mathematics K-10 overviews

Scope and sequence statements

The content in the scope and sequence statements is expressed at specific year levels to provide middle childhood teachers with advice on starting points for the development of learning, teaching and assessment programs. Middle childhood teachers will use their knowledge of students' progressive achievement to make their own decisions about when it is appropriate to introduce content to individuals and groups of students.

The scope and sequence statements in this syllabus have been organised around the seven clusters, with content for Appreciating Mathematics embedded within the scope and sequence statements for Working Mathematically and the five conceptual clusters. This organisation of the scope and sequence statements reflects the organisation of the outcomes in the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps – Mathematics/Outcomes and Standards Framework – Mathematics.

The scope and sequence statements are organised to assist teacher's planning for learning, teaching and assessment. The following graphic identifies the key features of the Mathematics scope and sequence statements.



Key features of Mathematics scope and sequence statements

3.9 Overview of the Science learning area

What is Science about?

Humans have always wondered about the world in which we live and attempted to understand it. Science education aims to stimulate this curiosity and give students the skills and knowledge to answer many of the questions they ask. Developing scientific literacy is important because it provides opportunities for students to grow into well-rounded citizens and enables them to develop values and make decisions about important societal issues.

Science is the study of the natural and made world, and the systems and processes that support life on the planet and beyond. It encourages questions and values evidence-based conclusions. Scientific knowledge is an important basis for enabling citizens to make informed and responsible decisions about how society should develop.

Care for the environment is an integral part of the study of Science and requires an understanding of diverse areas of scientific knowledge.

The process of scientific inquiry requires creativity and openness to new ideas, and a willingness to evaluate evidence with intellectual honesty and integrity. It is a dynamic process and scientific knowledge is constantly evolving.

Why teach Science?

Teaching Science provides students with opportunities to:

- develop their understandings of the world around them
- communicate their understandings in a variety of scientifically literate forms
- pose questions that are relevant and meaningful to them and then test and evaluate evidence objectively
- use scientific knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and to consider the consequences and implications of these decisions in their lives
- acquire knowledge, skills and understandings essential for success in further study of Science.

How is the Science learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework Science Learning Area Statement consists of nine outcomes, which are organised into two interrelated parts: Working Scientifically, and four conceptual outcomes.

Working Scientifically outcomes describe the skills and processes for scientific investigation and consist of:

- Investigating
- · Communicating Scientifically
- Science in Daily Life
- Acting Responsibly
- Science in Society.

The conceptual outcomes encompass scientific understandings, theories, ideas and knowledge and consist of:

- Earth and Beyond
- Energy and Change
- Life and Living
- Natural and Processed Materials.

Working Scientifically outcomes should be embedded and taught within the context of the four conceptual outcomes.

Organisation of content

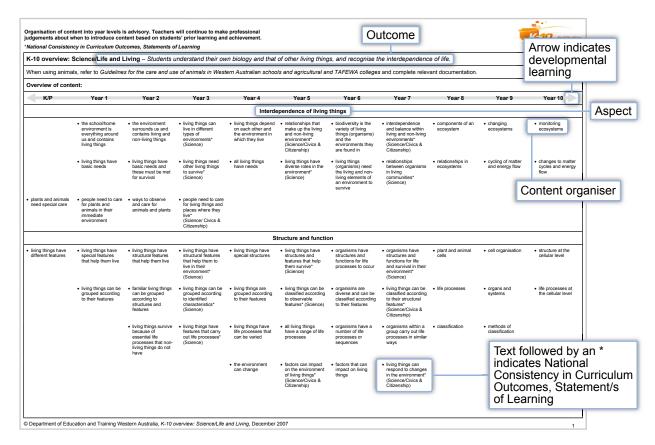
Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews of each scope and sequence statement, except Investigating
- scope and sequence statements.

K-10 overviews

Kindergarten to year 10 overviews are provided in this syllabus to facilitate developmentally appropriate planning and delivery of learning, teaching and assessment programs. These overviews are designed to provide middle childhood teachers with a clear map of the progression of content. They will enable teachers to select content from syllabuses for other phases of development, if this is appropriate to support student learning.

The following graphic identifies the key features of the Science K-10 overviews.



Key features of Science K-10 overviews

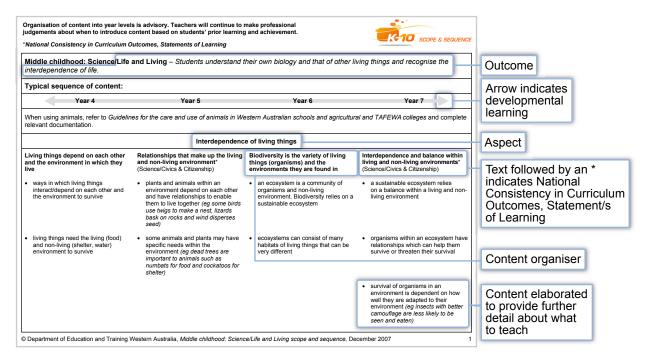
Scope and sequence statements

The content in the scope and sequence statements is expressed at specific year levels to provide middle childhood teachers with advice on starting points for the development of learning, teaching and assessment programs. Middle childhood teachers will use their knowledge of students' progressive achievement to make their own decisions about when it is appropriate to introduce content to individuals and groups of students.

Scope and sequence statements for Investigating and the four conceptual outcomes (Earth and Beyond, Energy and Change, Life and Living and Natural and Processed Materials) are included in this syllabus. The remaining four outcomes that make up Working Scientifically (Acting Responsibly, Communicating Scientifically, Science in Daily Life and Science in Society) are embedded in the scope and sequence statements for the conceptual outcomes.

This organisation of the scope and sequence statements reflects the organisation of the outcomes in the *Curriculum Framework Progress Maps – Science/Outcomes and Standards Framework – Science.*

The scope and sequence statements assist teachers' planning for learning, teaching and assessment. The following graphic identifies the key features of the Science scope and sequence statements.



Key features of Science K-10 scope and sequence statements

3.10 Overview of the Society and Environment learning area

What is Society and Environment about?

The Society and Environment learning area develops students' understanding of how individuals and groups live together and interact with their physical and cultural environment. Students develop a respect for cultural heritage and a commitment to social justice, the democratic process and sustainability. These inform decision making that contributes to community cohesion and a positive future.

Why teach Society and Environment?

Society and Environment provides students with opportunities to:

- acquire knowledge, skills and values
 that enable them to analyse and reflect
 on their place in contemporary society
 as an individual and as a group member
- develop critical-thinking and problemsolving skills through the investigation of issues
- make reasoned and informed decisions, reflect on civic rights and responsibilities, develop a responsible global perspective and take appropriate civic action
- actively explore and participate in the world around them

 acquire knowledge, skills and understandings essential for success in further study.

How is the Society and Environment learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework Society and Environment Learning Area Statement consists of seven interrelated outcomes:

- Investigation, Communication and Participation (social inquiry)
- Place and Space
- Resources
- Culture
- Time, Continuity and Change
- Natural and Social Systems
- Active Citizenship.

Social inquiry is a process of research that uses ethical practices in relation to data collection and evaluation, considers perspectives and applies empathy and critical thinking to reach findings. Findings are used to justify informed opinions that the student, as an active citizen can apply.

Organisation of content

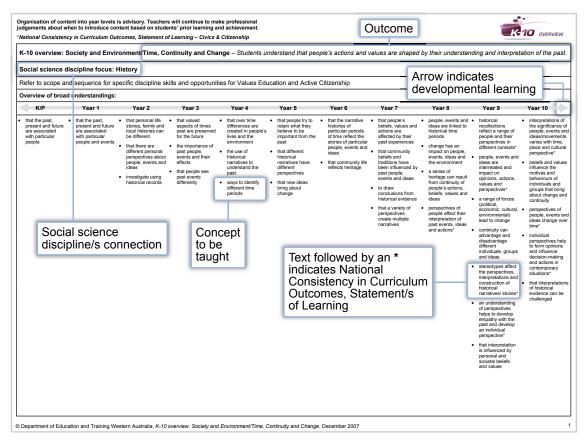
Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews of each scope and sequence statement
- scope and sequence statements.

K-10 overviews

Kindergarten to year 10 overviews are provided to facilitate developmentally appropriate planning and delivery of learning and teaching programs. These overviews are designed to provide middle childhood teachers with a clear map of the progression of content. They will assist teachers to select content from syllabuses for other phases of development, if this is appropriate to support student learning.

The following graphic identifies the key features of the Society and Environment K-10 overviews.



Key features of Society and Environment K-10 overviews

Scope and sequence statements

The content in the scope and sequence statements is expressed at specific year levels to provide middle childhood teachers with advice on possible starting points for the development of learning, teaching and assessment programs.

Middle childhood teachers will use their knowledge of students' progressive achievement to make their own decisions about when it is appropriate to introduce content to individuals and groups of students.

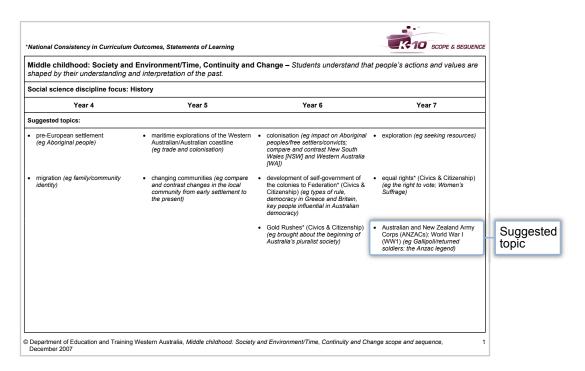
The scope and sequence statements for the conceptual outcomes contain:

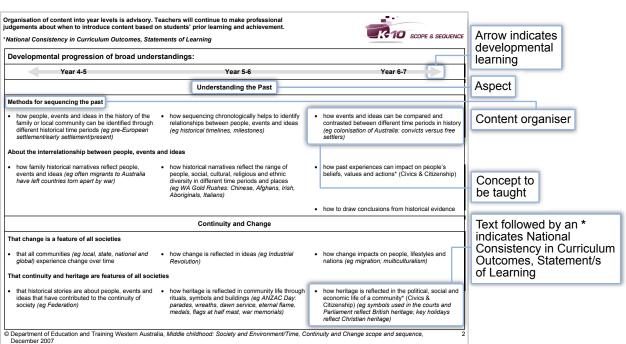
- suggested topics that reflect the conceptual outcome
- a developmental progression of broad understandings
- a sequence of skills specific to the social science discipline as represented in the conceptual outcome
- examples of Active Citizenship and Values Education opportunities specific to the conceptual outcome.

The scope and sequence statements reflect the organisation of the outcomes in the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps

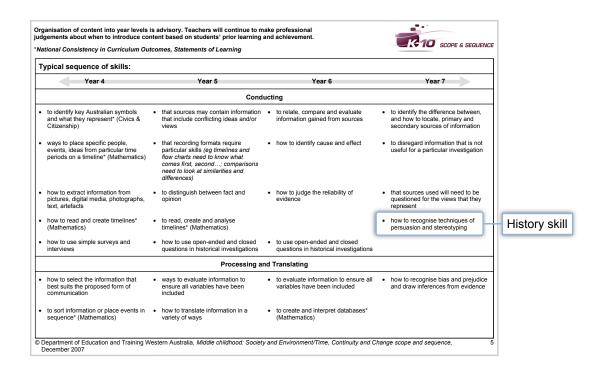
– Society and Environment/Outcomes and Standards Framework – Society and Environment.

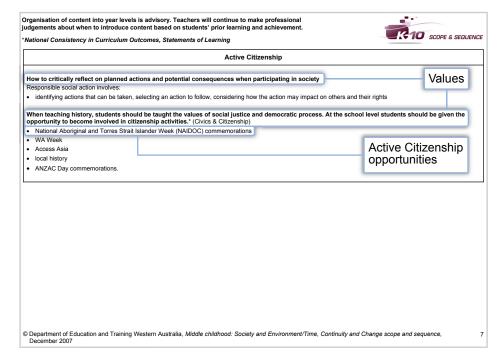
The scope and sequence statements are organised to assist teachers' planning for learning, teaching and assessment. The following graphics identify the key features of the Society and Environment scope and sequence statements.





Key features of Society and Environment scope and sequence statements





Key features of Society and Environment scope and sequence statements

3.11 Overview of the Technology and Enterprise learning area

What is Technology and Enterprise about?

The Technology and Enterprise learning area relates to the processes of applying knowledge, skills and resources to satisfying human needs and wants, extending capabilities and realising opportunities.

Technology uses resources, including materials (both raw and processed), tools and machines, knowledge, skills and experiences, as well as investment of time, energy and money. It involves systems for collecting, transporting and transforming materials, for storing and processing information and resources, and for communicating and marketing the outcomes. Technology also includes the processes and products that result from technological enterprise.

Enterprise involves the development and application of skills and attitudes that enable people to actively respond to and be involved in social and economic change.

Technology and enterprise have consequences, costs and benefits that need to be considered carefully and responsibly before decisions are made.

Why teach Technology and Enterprise?

Teaching Technology and Enterprise provides students with opportunities to:

develop life skills such as problem

- solving, negotiation and teamwork proficiency
- develop specific manipulative and technical skills and apply them to everyday situations
- develop technical literacy and the ability to communicate ideas effectively to a variety of audiences
- apply design and production skills to maximise benefits to consumers and minimise environmental impacts
- enhance understanding of enterprise and the interaction of technology with community, culture, values and attitudes
- develop safe and collaborative work habits using a variety of specialist materials and equipment
- extend their capabilities and specific technical skills to satisfy their personal interests.

How is the Technology and Enterprise learning area structured?

The Curriculum Framework Technology and Enterprise Learning Area Statement consists of seven outcomes:

- Technology Process
- Materials
- Information
- Systems
- Enterprise
- Technology Skills
- Technology in Society.

Organisation of content

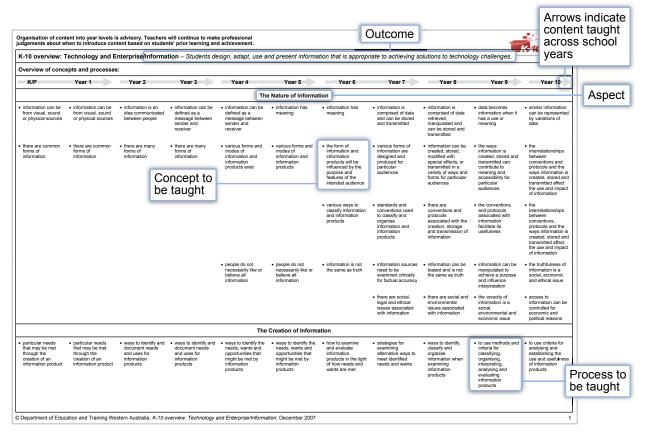
Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews
- scope and sequence statements.

K-10 overviews

Kindergarten to year 10 overviews are provided to facilitate developmentally appropriate planning and delivery of learning, teaching and assessment programs. These overviews are designed to provide Technology and Enterprise teachers with a clear map of the progression of concepts and processes. They will enable Technology and Enterprise teachers to select content from syllabuses for other phases of development, if this is appropriate to support student learning.

The following graphic identifies the key features of the Technology and Enterprise K-10 overviews



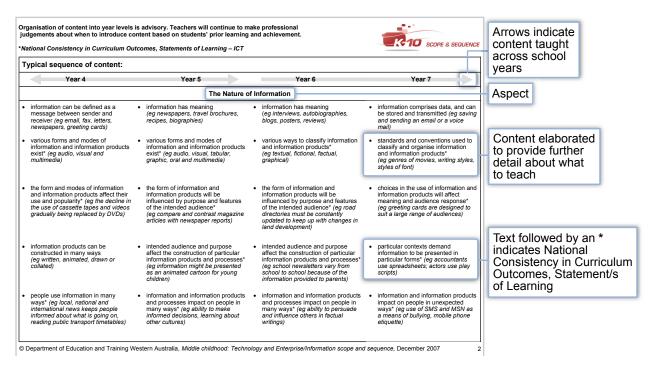
Key features of Technology and Enterprise K-10 overviews

Scope and sequence statements

The content in the scope and sequence statements is expressed at specific year levels to provide Technology and Enterprise teachers with advice on starting points for the development of learning, teaching and assessment programs. Teachers continue to make professional judgements about when to introduce content based on students' prior learning and achievement.

The scope and sequence statements are organised around the Technology Process, Materials, Information and Systems outcomes and content for the Enterprise, Technology Skills and Technology in Society outcomes are embedded within these.

The scope and sequence statements are organised to assist teachers' planning for learning in Technology and Enterprise. The following graphic identifies the key features of the Technology and Enterprise scope and sequence statements.



Key features of Technology and Enterprise scope and sequence statements

4 Planning for learning in the middle childhood phase of development

School planning is an integral part of the improvement process. It typically involves four stages:

- · identification of needs through collection and analysis of student achievement information
- planning for improvement
- implementation
- review.

4.1 Breadth and balance in curriculum planning

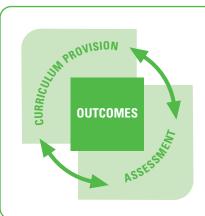
This syllabus identifies content relevant to learning in the middle childhood phase of development.

When planning with this syllabus, school leaders and middle childhood teachers will continue to exercise professional judgements about the full range of learning, teaching and assessment programs that will meet the learning needs of their students. These judgements are made in the context of the overall school plan, which takes into account relevant legislative and policy requirements, and community expectations.

School leaders and middle childhood teachers may use this syllabus in conjunction with the Curriculum Framework Curriculum Guides to plan for a rich and varied curriculum that takes into account the learning needs and interests of students.

4.2 Whole-school planning

The elements of whole-school curriculum planning are encapsulated in the following diagram.



- Students' achievement and learning needs
- Relevant learning outcomes, as described in the Curriculum Framework
- Content as described in the Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus and Curriculum Framework Curriculum Guides
- Realistic yet challenging expectations about students' performance
- Opportunities required to enable students to continue to experience success in their learning
- Learning environments
- Pedagogy relevant to students and the focus of learning

Students' achievement and learning needs

Examination of student achievement information enables school leaders and middle childhood teachers to make judgements about whether students are making sufficient progress with their learning in relation to relevant standards. Sources of information include:

- teachers' records of student assessment
- teacher moderation of student work
- standardised test data.

Learning outcomes and content

Examination of student achievement information and judgements made about students' progress inform analysis of existing curriculum provision, which includes consideration of relevant learning outcomes and content. This enables school leaders and middle childhood teachers to make informed decisions about the adequacy of current curriculum provision and whether modifications are required. It may result in curriculum modifications to ensure that students have adequate opportunities to make progress in their learning.

Expectations of students' performance

Considerations of outcomes and content also incorporates setting realistic, yet challenging, targets for student performance. Target setting ensures that decisions lead to school leaders and middle childhood teachers developing and implementing challenging and developmentally appropriate learning,

teaching and assessment programs for students.

Continued success in learning

The focus of whole-school curriculum planning is the continued learning success of all students in the school. While the majority of students will continue to achieve within an expected range, some students will require learning and teaching adjustments to support their learning. Whole-school curriculum planning assists school leaders and middle childhood teachers to identify individuals and groups of students who require Documented Plans.

Learning environments

The environment of a school and its classrooms needs to be inclusive, supportive and promote learning. Issues that school leaders and middle childhood teachers could review as part of whole-school curriculum planning include:

- working relationships among
 - teachers
 - students
 - teachers and students
 - teachers, students and their parents/caregivers
 - the school and the community
- management of student behaviour
- level of inclusion in relation to language background, gender, culture, socioeconomic status, abilities or disabilities, and individual differences

- existence of adequate and fair access to, and use of, appropriate and varied resources (space, equipment, materials and technology)
- ways in which students are grouped and arranged in the school and classrooms
- ways in which time is allocated for curriculum provision
- learning opportunities outside the school
- opportunities for students to negotiate the curriculum, if appropriate.
- **Pedagogy**

Whole-school curriculum planning includes school leaders and middle childhood teachers reviewing and selecting a range of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. Pedagogical approaches selected by teachers should be informed by the principles of learning and teaching in the *Curriculum Framework*.

Time allocation

To achieve a balanced curriculum, schools should provide the appropriate resources, including time, to ensure progress towards achievement of all learning outcomes identified in this syllabus.

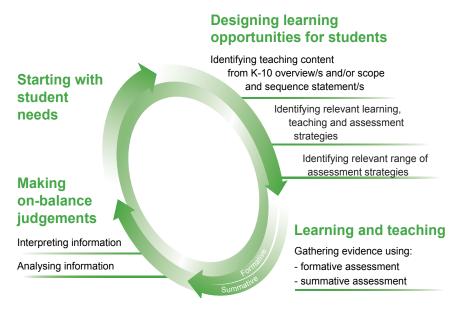
When making decisions about the allocation of teaching time the following should be considered:

while the eight learning areas in the
 Curriculum Framework are all held in
 equal esteem, equal time does not need
 to be allocated to each

- decisions about teaching time should be influenced by student achievement data, indicating students' learning needs in the context of the school
- school system/sector priorities and curriculum policies
- students from years 1-10 should participate in at least two hours of physical activity per week
- expectation of the teaching of content described in the *NCCO Statements* of Learning in Civics and Citizenship, English, ICT, Mathematics and Science.

4.3 Planning using the *Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus*

The key elements of planning for learning are outlined in the diagram below. Planning begins with an assessment of students' learning needs so that teachers can design developmentally appropriate programs. Relevant content can then be selected from the K-10 overviews and scope and sequence statements in this syllabus. Teachers select approaches to learning, teaching and assessment that are relevant to their students and the contexts of their schools.



Key elements of planning for learning

Considerations for planning across the phase include:

- incorporating the focus of learning and strategies the school has committed to in the whole-school curriculum plan
- use of K-10 overviews and scope and sequence statements as a basis for auditing,
 validating and augmenting existing programs as required
- collaborative planning and decision making about contexts for learning and teaching to ensure minimal repetition
- consideration of available resources
- continuation of year level planning with a focus on adapting programs, if required, to meet the needs of groups and individuals.

When using this syllabus for planning learning, teaching and assessment programs, teachers can:

- identify Curriculum Framework learning outcomes that will be highlighted in the unit of work/program
- reflect the principles of learning, teaching and assessment in the Curriculum Framework
- use K-10 overview/s and/or scope and sequence statement/s to select relevant content
- identify appropriate targets for particular groups and individuals that connect to whole-school targets
- identify what students will need to do to demonstrate their learning
- identify review points for monitoring and assessing student progress
- gather information about students'
 learning using a range of assessment
 strategies and provide ongoing
 feedback that is meaningful to students
- make ongoing use of information about student progress to reflect on and modify learning and teaching opportunities.

4.4 Integrating learning

The *Curriculum Framework* identifies effective learning as that which enables students to make connections between ideas, people and things, and to relate local, national and global

events and phenomena. Students are more likely to achieve desired learning outcomes when they see connections between their various learning experiences and can build on their experiences across learning areas.

Planning for integration

An integrated approach to curriculum planning links content across learning areas in purposeful ways. Integrating learning enables middle childhood teachers to plan learning, teaching and assessment programs that focus on:

- making the purpose and relevance of learning more explicit
- supporting application of knowledge, understandings and skills across learning areas
- providing opportunities for students to make authentic connections within and across learning areas, their school, their home and the wider context of the world
- the efficient use of learning and teaching time.

When supporting integration of learning, middle childhood teachers:

- identify connected ideas and relevant contexts across learning area as a basis for learning, teaching and assessment programs
- teach relevant skills and knowledge, and then provide opportunities for practise, in a range of contexts.

When planning and delivering integrated programs, it is important to also maintain a balanced focus on the content and learning outcomes related to specific learning areas. This ensures that students have appropriate opportunities for rigorous and specialised learning as well as opportunities to integrate their learning.

The inquiry process

The Curriculum Framework learning outcomes describe the knowledge, understandings, skills and values students should develop during the course of their schooling. These learning outcomes include a focus on the process of inquiry as a means of supporting learning. The inquiry process also provides students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and understandings to effectively locate, obtain, evaluate, use and share information.

Each of the *Curriculum Framework* learning areas advocate a specialised approach to the process of inquiry to engage students in learning that is meaningful, values focused and developmentally appropriate. These approaches have common elements, as students learn to:

- recognise when and what information is needed
- locate and consider information from a range of sources or perspectives
- evaluate information, reach an informed conclusion, and use and share information with others.

When planning programs of learning, teaching and assessment for students in the middle childhood phase of development, teachers can focus on an integrated approach to inquiry by including the common elements listed above. Such an approach to inquiry will provide a sound basis on which students can develop more specialised inquiry skills as they progress with learning through subsequent phases of development.

The following diagrams indicate opportunities for integrating national and state initiatives across learning areas.

Advice for integrating Civics and Citizenship across learning areas

Enalish

- Relating literature to aspects of contemporary society and personal experience.
- Knowing that understandings and interpretations of texts vary according to cultural, social and personal differences.
- Expressing, listening to and considering different opinions and supporting reasons
- Developing and considering reasoned arguments.
- Understanding the influence of media on people and government.

The Arts

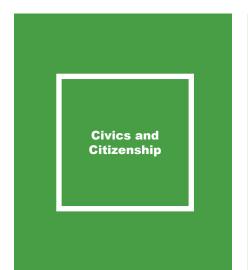
- Participating in collaborative problem solving and decision making through activities such as preparing an art exhibition or developing a dance performance.
- Exploring attitudes and issues through the interpretation and presentation of arts works such as a poster on bullying or a devised drama about saving water.
- Celebrating cultural diversity through the experience of arts works such as Aboriginal dot paintings or a performance of anklung music.
- Gaining an understanding of the ideas, values and experiences of other times and places through researching the context of an arts work.

Technology and Enterprise

- Understanding the development and use of technology for social benefit.
- Understanding how cultural beliefs, values and ethical positions are interconnected in the development and use of technologies.
- Appreciating the influence of ICT on people and government.

Health and Physical Education

- Applying decision-making processes, ethical behaviour, responsibility and following rules.
- Developing interpersonal skills through communication, collaboration, cooperation and leadership and respecting the rights of others.
- Resolving conflict through negotiation and peer mediation.



Science

- Acting responsibly with care and concern for the implications of actions so that responsible decisions can be made.
- Exploring Science in society through the differing views of people, societies and cultures about scientific research and the resulting technological developments.
- Considering scientific developments over time and the influences of cultural, social, political and economic factors.

Languages (LOTE)

- Developing an understanding of different beliefs and values that people bring to community and civic life.
- Understanding the beliefs and values that inform how societies and governments are organised.
- Developing intercultural understandings through exploring:
 - · interpersonal relations
 - human rights and responsibilities
 - cultural traditions, attitudes and beliefs
 - · political and social issues
 - · environmental protection
 - cultural achievements
 - current affairs.

Society and Environment

- Applying informed decisions as active participants in the community.
- Making reasoned and informed decisions through the process of social inquiry.
- Understanding historical perspectives on Australia's development as a democratic nation.
- Understanding that other nations are governed in ways that are similar to, and different from, Australia.
- Understanding the regional, global and environmental implications of being a citizen in a democracy.
- Appreciating how citizens and government contribute to a socially cohesive, democratic community and adopt values, behaviours and life styles required for a sustainable future.
- Evaluating appropriate civic action on local, community and/or global issues.
- Appreciating the uniqueness and diversity of Australia as a pluralist society.

- · Solving problems.
- Investigating, generalising and reasoning.
- Explaining and justifying conclusions.
- Collecting, representing and analysing data on systems of government.
- Examining the history of Mathematics in different cultures and how this has changed attitudes and values.

Advice for integrating Information and Communication Technologies across learning areas

Science

- Using robotics programs.
- Using electronic demonstrations.
- Using weather stations to detect and record weather information.
- Using Internet browsers to view virtual dissections of animals, webcams and digital images to see things that cannot readily be observed
- Using digital cameras to record growth rates or patterns.
- Searching the Internet to research and identify information.
- Playing interactive, content rich, digital resources and activities
- Using technologies such as email and blogs to communicate.
- Using word processing software to produce flow charts, diagrams, plans and reports.
- Using spreadsheets to create charts, tables and graphs.

Health and Physical Education

- Using Internet browsers to view virtual tours, webcams and digital images to see things that cannot readily be observed.
- Videoing to collect data on physical performance
- Searching the Internet to research and identify information.
- Playing interactive, content rich, digital resources and activities
- Using word processing software to produce flow charts, diagrams and
- Using spreadsheets to create timetables, charts, tables and

Technology and Enterprise

- Using computer aided design or drawing software to design products, games and equipment.
- Operating ICT safely and ethically.
- Searching the Internet to research and identify information.
- Playing interactive, content rich, digital games and activities
- Using technologies such as email and blogs to communicate and gather information.
- Using word processing software to produce flow charts, diagrams, survey results, instructions, letters, plans, product evaluations and reports.
- Using spreadsheets to create databases, charts, tables and graphs.
- Creating a video presentation as a final

The Arts

- Searching the Internet to research and identify information for use in creating arts works in dance, drama, media, music and visual arts.
- Using software to explore shape, colour and pattern, produce soundtracks and music, create a short film clip, explore lighting and other effects or develop choreography.
- Manipulating digital images to create 2D and 3D works, to enhance and alter
- Using digital cameras to photograph art work and produce a virtual gallery
- Using software to scan original art work and designs into documents.
- Using electronic clip galleries art, sound and animations
- Using the resources of the web to communicate and present arts works.

Information and Communication **Technologies**

Languages (LOTE)

- Playing interactive, content rich, digital resources and activities to practise the target language.
- Using technologies such as email and blogs to communicate and gather information.
- Using online dictionaries.
- Using videos, microphones and software to produce multimedia presentations
- Using text manipulation software to translate languages.
- Using presentation software to create written work.
- Creating a storyboard in the target language and using a digital camera to take photographs.
- Searching the Internet to research and identify information.

English

- Planning and conducting structured searches.
- Using word processing software to produce letters, plans, reports, reviews, stories, scripts, comics and newspapers
- Using desktop publishing software to produce brochures, menus, invitations, advertisements, cards, postcards, newsletters, awards, web pages and flvers.
- Using audio devices and microphones to record oral presentations.
- Creating a story board and using a digital camera to take photographs and photo stories.
- Using video equipment to produce movies, advertisements and interviews and to record responses to texts.
- Using electronic clip galleries art, sound and animations
- Searching the Internet to research and identify information.
- Playing interactive, content rich, digital resources and activities.
- Using technologies such as email and blogs to communicate and gather information

Society and Environment

- Applying a code of practice when using ICT in terms of safety, ethical practice and responsibility.
- Adopting ethical behaviours when investigating
- Using websites and URLs to locate relevant and reliable information.
- Viewing online satellite images, maps, charts and photographs.
- Using online encyclopaedias and
- Using print and electronic sources of information.
- Using technologies such as email and blogs to communicate and gather
- Using GIS (Geographical Information Systems) as a source of information.
- Using word processing software to produce flow charts, diagrams, models, databases, graphs and reports.

- Using spreadsheets to create charts, tables, graphs and to use formula to solve equations
- Using mathematical symbols and notation in word processing software to complete tasks.
- Using software and 'drawing' tools to create repeating patterns such as tessellations, 2D and 3D shapes and
- Designing and producing 3D models. Using software and 'drawing' tools to investigate scale, ratios, distortion, rotation, reflection, translation, symmetry, angles and other geometrical features.
- Searching the Internet to research and identify information.
- Playing interactive, content rich, digital resources and activities. Using technologies such as email
- and blogs to communicate and gather information.
- Using word processing software to produce flow charts, diagrams and reports.
- Considering costs, profits, loss, and selling price in relation to enterprise and ventures
- Using measuring instruments, computers and calculators to communicate, collect, represent and interpret data.

Advice for integrating Literacy across learning areas

English

- Understanding codes and conventions of written, spoken and visual texts.
- Comprehending and composing a range of imaginative, information and argument texts in written, spoken and visual forms.
- Understanding the purposes of different written, spoken and visual texts.
- Recognising that texts can be used in different ways for different cultural and social functions.
- Understanding that texts can position readers, viewers and listeners in different ways.
- Understanding the impact of audience on text interpretation and construction.

Health and Physical Education

- Using verbal and non-verbal skills to communicate understanding of concepts.
- Critically analysing the messages and information conveyed in the media.
- Discussing and developing understandings of issues related to healthy environments.
- Using assertive communication, mediation and negotiation skills related to relationships and lifestyles.
- Using subject-specific vocabulary including abstract words to describe emotions
- Stating and clarifying opinions and ideas.
- Understanding and using Health and Physical Education vocabulary.

Technology and Enterprise

- Understanding specialised vocabulary to communicate and explore ideas and information related to the Technology Process
- Formulating questions for investigating technologies, materials or systems.
- Reading and writing procedures and instructions.
- Communicating ideas and presenting information appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Evaluating the Technology Process and products.
- Understanding and using Technology and Enterprise vocabulary.

Mathematics

- Reading, writing and speaking using the vocabulary of Mathematics in a variety of contexts and forms.
- Interpreting text containing mathematical notation or ideas.
- Preparing arguments to convince others about mathematical ideas.
- Clarifying and refining questions for planning investigations and surveys.
- · Recording findings.
- · Presenting data.
- Producing written and oral explanations of the thought processes involved in solving problems.
- Transferring number sentences into number stories and vice versa.
- Understanding and using Mathematics vocabulary.
- Reading and interpreting visual images and symbolic forms such as number representations, diagrams, graphs and tables
- Reading and interpreting information from secondary sources.

Literacy

Languages (LOTE)

- Listening and speaking to exchange information and responding to the speech of others in the target language.
- Understanding the cultural constructs presented in texts.
- Reading and understanding texts in the target language.
- Learning vocabulary and the corresponding meaning in English.
- Understanding the grammatical structures used in texts of the target language.
- Understanding how punctuation influences meaning.
- Comprehending and composing a range of texts in the target language.

Society and Environment

- Developing focus questions when planning investigations.
- Viewing and reading information from print and electronic sources.
- Summarising information from a range of sources and making notes.
- Collecting, organising, analysing and evaluating information.
- Using graphic organisers to show cause and effect, compare and contrast and sequence information.
- Communicating findings according to purpose and audience.
- Comprehending and composing written, visual and spoken texts.
- Identifying point of view and author's purpose in a range of information and argument texts.
- Using literacy to develop the skills of critical inquiry and ethical decision making to become better informed, active citizens.
- Understanding and using Society and Environment vocabulary when investigating and communicating about past people events and times, places, cultures, governments and the economy.

Science

- Reading to find scientific information in print and electronic texts
- Clarifying ideas through discussion.
- Writing explanations and solutions for scientific problems.
- Formulating questions to solve problems.
- Communicating findings and scientific information.
- Understanding the vocabulary of Science.

The Arts

- Describing, interpreting, analysing and evaluating arts works.
- Reading for information when researching ideas for creating arts works in dance, drama, media, music and visual arts.
- Using a range of written forms for recording arts experiences in all arts forms
- Developing speaking and listening skills through creation and presentation in drama and media.
- Consolidating and extending speaking and listening skills through discussion when creating and responding in dance, drama, media, music and visual
- Writing and reading scripts in drama and media.
- Developing visual literacy through creating and responding in media and visual arts.
- Using critical thinking skills to shape responses to arts works in dance, high level drama, media, music and visual arts
- Understanding and using arts vocabulary.

Advice for integrating Numeracy across learning areas

Enalish

- Reading, writing and speaking using the vocabulary of Mathematics in a variety of contexts and forms.
- Interpreting text containing mathematical notation or ideas.
- Preparing arguments to convince others about mathematical ideas.
- Clarifying and refining questions for planning investigations and surveys.
- · Recording findings.
- Presenting data.
- Producing written and oral explanations of the thought processes involved in solving problems.
- Transferring number sentences into number stories and vice versa.
- Using language to understand, develop and communicate ideas and information and interact with others.
- Reading and interpreting visual images and symbolic forms such as number represtentations, diagrams, graphs and tables.
- Reading and interpreting information from the media and secondary sources.

The Arts

- Applying time and tempo in music and dance.
- Extending spatial awareness in dance and drama.
- Using symmetry and asymmetry in design in visual arts, dance and drama.
- Making 2D and 3D models, designs and drawings in visual arts, drama and media.
- Using scale and perspective in visual arts, media and drama.
- Measuring and manipulating time in media and drama.
- Using numbers in sequence in music and dance.
- Using pattern and repetition in dance, drama, media, music and visual arts.
- Collecting data on preferences for display and interpretation.
- Considering the shape of performance areas, such as referring to the Golden Ratio
- Costing productions, ticketing and money matters associated with performances.

Technology and Enterprise

- · Reading plans and designs.
- Collecting and recording data including graphs, tables and tallies.
- · Collating data in graph form.
- Measuring tasks, distance, height, weight, area, volume, time and scale ensuring accuracy of results.
- Designing and producing 2D and 3D models.
- Selecting and using appropriate measurement instruments and using standard and non-standard units to measure
- · Using operations when required.
- Using measuring instruments, computers and calculators appropriately.
- Considering costs, profit, loss and selling price in enterprising ventures.

Health and Physical Education

- · Timetabling activities.
- Measuring tasks distance, time, pulse rates, height, weight, kilojoules and length.
- Collecting and recording data including graphs, tables and tallies.
- Selecting and using appropriate measurement instruments and using standard and non-standard units to measure
- Calculating numbers associated with health and fitness levels and sporting events.
- Collecting and processing data on health, fitness and sporting events.
- Understanding numbers, shapes and areas associated with different sports.

Numeracy

Science

- · Collecting and recording data.
- Recording findings in simple terms in tables, graphs and tallies.
- Identifying common patterns in events and data.
- Identifying shapes and structures.
- Measuring tasks distance, height, weight, area, volume, time and scale.
- Selecting and using appropriate measurement instruments and using standard and non-standard units to measure.
- Estimating.
- · Using operations when required.
- · Grouping and classifying.
- Measuring physical quantities such as temperature and capacity.

Languages (LOTE)

- Listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing activities involving numbers and mathematical concepts such as:
 - expressing dates and/or time (12 and 24 hour clock) and making appointments
 - understanding culturally-specific interpretations of time
 - · counting sequences
 - · following directions
 - converting foreign currencies using exchange rates
 - · using timetables
 - presenting data and information from surveys in graph form
 - understanding quantities and prices.

Society and Environment

- Locating places and reference points on maps and street directories using alpha-numeric grids.
- Using scale on maps to determine area and distances.
- Using latitude and longitude coordinates to locate features, measuring in degrees.
- Using databases to organise information so that it can be analysed.
- Drawing and making maps and models to scale.
- Using time lines.
- Using data in economic decision making.
- · Interpreting patterns and trends in data.
- Identifying and recognising spatial patterns in the environment.
- Using data in the management of financial resources.
- Interpreting a scale drawing or weather map.
- Using statistical literacy skills to interpret.
- Using map projections and timezones.

- Calculating mentally the discount for a sale item
- Measuring and adjusting the ingredients for a recipe.
- Estimating whether a bookshelf will fit in
 a space.
- Calculating the likelihood of success in a game.
- · Applying problem-solving techniques.
- · Using appropriate technology and tools.
- Adopting personal and collaborative management strategies.
- Making sense of results, explaining and justifying conclusions reached.
- Investigating, generalising and reasoning about patterns in number, space and data.
- Using Mathematics to assist with understanding new situations and understanding its influence in our lives.
- Drawing on spatial and quantitative knowledge to understand new information and situations, solve problems not previously encountered and judge the reasonableness of particular uses of Mathematics (eg plan a new garden bed).

Advice for integrating Physical activity across learning areas

English

- Giving sequential, audible instructions in games.
- · Following instructions within a game.
- Identifying language used when umpiring a game.
- Actively listening to comments or advice from coaches or team mates and asking clarifying questions.
- · Creating a physical activity diary.
- Providing positive and encouraging feedback.

The Arts

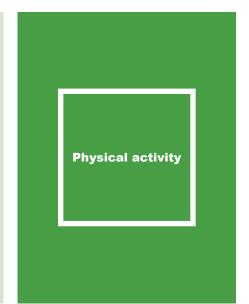
- Extending fundamental movement skills through dance.
- Warming-up practices in dance and drama.
- Using body skills and techniques in dance and drama.
- Increasing flexibility and control through dance and drama.

Technology and Enterprise

- Investigating, designing and making play equipment.
- Designing a physical activity program to suit the needs of an individual or group.
- · Building and constructing designs.

Health and Physical Education

- Participating in:
 - · modified sports
 - dance
 - gymnastics
 - fitness-based games
 - water safety
 - outdoor education
 - · adventure games.



Science

- Exploring and investigating the outdoors.
- Measuring the impact of exercise on the body.
- Investigating how muscles enable movement.
- · Planting trees, plants or weeding.
- · Engaging in sustainability activities.

Languages (LOTE)

- Participating in dances and games from different countries.
- Participating in leisure activities from other countries that have contributed to Australian culture.
- Creating a World Games competition.

Society and Environment

- Participating in field work.
- Understanding civic responsibilities in teams and sporting clubs.
- Understanding how the features of the environment impact on physical activity.
- Understanding that beliefs and values about sport vary between groups.
- Following directions and navigating maps in orienteering.
- Engaging in sustainability activities.

- Measuring the dimensions of playing fields and courts.
- Graphing speed and fitness levels.
- Using measuring equipment such as timers, stop watches, tape measures and trundle wheels.
- Scoring games and activities.
- Calculating numbers associated with health and fitness levels and sporting events.
- Collecting and processing data on health, fitness and sporting events.
- Understanding numbers, shapes and areas associated with different sports.

Advice for integrating Values across learning areas

Enalish

- Presenting views and contesting unfair and unjust situations.
- Developing functional and critical literacy.
- Recognising the importance of language as a vehicle for communication, a thinking tool, a means of creativity and a source of pleasure.
- Understanding the role language plays in the construction of gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic class.
- Understanding that reader and viewer interpretations are influenced by the knowledge and values of the groups to which they belong.
- Understanding that texts can portray people, characters and events in particular ways.
- Conducting English activities with respect for the environment.
- · Behaving ethically in English.
- Pursuing personal excellence in English.

The Arts

- Developing self understanding, self management and self esteem through personal expression.
- · Developing creative imagination.
- Exploring and developing values and attitudes which are considered and well founded.
- · Developing skills of critical reflection.
- Developing respect for their own cultural heritage and the cultural heritage of others.
- Engaging in cooperative and collaborative work practices.
- Respecting diversity of belief and expression.
- Conducting arts activities with respect to the environment.
- · Behaving ethically in The Arts.
- Pursuing personal excellence in The Arts.

Technology and Enterprise

- Using technology to meet societal needs over time.
- Understanding how cultural beliefs, values, abilities and ethical positions are interconnected in the development and use of technologies.
- Applying persistence, resourcefulness, creativity and boldness when completing challenges.
- Developing understandings about the natural and built environment.
- Meeting people's needs and wants by balancing environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.
- Conducting Technology and Enterprise activities with respect to the environment
- Behaving ethically in Technology and Enterprise
- Pursuing personal excellence in Technology and Enterprise.

Health and Physical Education

- Recognising and accepting cultural and social diversity.
- Developing interpersonal skills through effective communication, empathy, collaboration, cooperation, initiative and leadership and respecting the rights of others.
- Resolving conflict through peaceful means
- Developing a sense of well-being through a healthy, active lifestyle.
- Developing sound self-management skills.
- Conducting Health and Physical Education activities with respect for the environment.
- Behaving ethically in Health and Physical Education.
- Pursuing personal excellence in Health and Physical Education.

Values

Science

- Taking a responsible role in using Science and Science applications in daily life.
- Exploring Science in society through the differing views of people, societies and cultures about scientific research and the resulting technological developments.
- Considering scientific developments and the link to environmental responsibility.
- Conducting Science activities with respect to the environment.
- Behaving ethically in Science.
- Pursuing personal excellence in Science.

Languages (LOTE)

- Working collaboratively to achieve identified goals.
- Encouraging positive interaction with those of a different language background.
- Developing intercultural skills and understandings through the study of other languages and cultures.
- Engaging with linguistic and cultural diversity in ways that respect difference and challenge stereotypes.
- Reflecting on own values, beliefs and traditions by comparing them to those of other communities.
- Enhancing self esteem and sense of personal identity through valuing languages and communicating with other language learners and speakers.
- Understanding the ways in which language and culture affect identity and perception of others.
- Respecting difference between cultures.
- Conducting Languages (LOTE) activities with respect for the
- Behaving ethically in Languages (LOTE).
- Pursuing personal excellence in Languages (LOTE).

Society and Environment

- Using the social inquiry process to develop skills of critical reflection and ethical behaviour.
- Appreciating differing cultural perspectives and showing responsible behaviour and respect for others.
- Upholding the principles of social justice, democratic process and sustainability.
- Making decisions to meet the needs of current and future generations by balancing environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.
- Communicating and applying informed opinions which reflect ethical investigations.
- Taking appropriate civic action on local community and/or global issues.
- Conducting Society and Environment activities with respect for the environment.
- Behaving ethically in Society and Environment.
- Pursuing personal excellence in Society and Environment.

- Investigating, generalising, explaining and justifying conclusions.
- Respecting and accepting differing ways to achieve the same outcome.
- Understanding the influence Mathematics has in daily life.
- Identifying the diverse, historical and cultural influences that have contributed towards Mathematics.
- Showing initiative, flexibility and persistence when working mathematically.
- Conducting Mathematics activities with respect for the environment.
- Behaving ethically in Mathematics.
- Pursuing personal excellence in Mathematics.

5 Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of learning and teaching and informs curriculum planning.

in the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/ Outcomes and Standards Framework.

The purpose of assessment is to:

- monitor students' progress to inform teacher planning and student learning
- gather and interpret evidence that enables middle childhood teachers to make informed decisions on students' achievement and progress as a basis for reporting.

Assessment relies on the professional judgement of the teacher. It is based on valid, comprehensive and reliable information about student achievement that has been collected over time. Assessment tasks must be fair, challenging and educative.

Middle childhood teachers are expected to provide feedback to students on learning tasks, so that students know what to do to improve and teachers know what to plan for next in their teaching.

The scope and sequence statements in this syllabus have been developed with reference to information on students' progressive achievement of learning outcomes as detailed

In planning and delivering learning, teaching and assessment programs using the scope and sequence statements, middle childhood teachers can support students to work towards or beyond what is described in relevant standards. Students with particular needs may, however, require individual or group Documented Plans to support their learning.

Schools should have an assessment policy based on the principles of assessment in the *Curriculum Framework* and communicate this to students and the school community.

5.1 The process of assessment

Assessment involves:

- providing students with opportunities to apply and demonstrate what they know, understand and can do
- gathering and recording the evidence of students' demonstrations of their learning
- using evidence to make on-balance judgements about students' achievement

- giving students advice about how to improve and continue their learning
- providing students with opportunities to be involved in reviewing assessment information and setting learning goals
- providing students with the skills necessary to successfully complete the assessment type.

5.2 Principles of assessment

Assessment should:

- be based on the belief that all students can improve in their learning
- be developed with reference to the principles of learning, teaching and assessment in the Curriculum Framework
- be referenced to common standards as described in the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/Outcomes and Standards Framework
- provide feedback to students about the progress of their learning, the quality of their work and the direction they need to take in future learning
- enhance students' resilience and motivation
- recognise and value the diverse backgrounds and experiences of students
- involve observing students during learning activities

- enable collaboration with colleagues, in and across schools, to evaluate evidence so that judgements about student achievement are valid, reliable and comparable
- result in adjustments to teaching to take into account the information that assessment provides
- allow for input from students and parents/caregivers.

Middle childhood teachers do not need to assess every learning experience. Teachers will use their professional judgement to inform decisions about when to assess, whether the assessment evidence should be collected formally or informally, and which evidence provides the most valuable and reliable information about student learning.

5.3 Assessment in the middle childhood phase of development

Assessment should reflect current knowledge of the typical characteristics of students in the middle childhood phase of development. The characteristics of students in the middle childhood phase of development identified in this syllabus can be used to inform approaches to assessment. This will enable middle childhood teachers to consider how students in this phase of development behave, grow, think, interact and learn when planning, developing and implementing assessment tasks.

Formative assessment usually focuses on particular aspects of learning to enable middle childhood teachers to adjust learning and teaching programs and provide students with specific information that assists them to improve. Incidental and detailed feedback can help to identify gaps in learning and allow teachers and students to monitor progress. Middle childhood teachers can gather information about student progress through analysis of students' work, observation of students' engagement with tasks and involvement in discussions.

Summative assessment usually focuses on determining the extent to which students have achieved learning outcomes.

Summative judgements are informed by student achievement over time and across a range of contexts.

5.4 Methods for gathering information

Methods for gathering information about student learning can include:

- attitude surveys
- concept maps
- demonstrations of skills in simulated and real contexts
- dialogue and listening
- · individual discussions with students
- investigations
- journals and learning logs

- open-ended questioning
- open-ended tasks
- oral presentations
- projects/assignments/reports
- reflective student assessment
- roleplays
- running records
- self and peer assessment
- sketches and drawings
- structured whole or small-group discussions
- student portfolios
- tests
- work in progress
- work samples.

5.5 Recording assessment information

When recording assessment information, middle childhood teachers should select methods that:

- are time efficient
- are effective in informing student learning
- enable assessment over a period of time
- accommodate a range of assessment types
- can be linked effectively to standards that inform reporting.

Methods of recording assessment information include:

- anecdotal records
- annotated work samples
- audio and visual (including photographic and video) recordings
- checklists
- Documented Plans (Individual Education Plans and Group Plans)
- marking keys
- observation notes
- portfolios
- reflection sheets, diaries or scrapbooks
- · records of test results
- rubrics
- · sample assessment items
- student/teacher journals.

Teachers can use the following frameworks to inform the recording of assessment information:

- Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/
 Outcomes and Standards Frameworks
- English as a Second Language or Dialect (ESL/ESD) Progress Maps
- First Steps Developmental Continua
- Literacy and Numeracy Net.

5.6 Making judgements and reporting

Teacher judgements are fundamental to assessment and reporting processes.

Middle childhood teachers assess using ways with which they feel comfortable to monitor students' progress and determine summative grades for reporting.

Middle childhood teachers do not have to level or grade every piece of student work.

Judgements about student achievement are based on knowledge of the students and their work, accumulated over time and in a range of situations. The frequency, consistency and degree of independence shown by students in demonstrating achievement provide a basis on which middle childhood teachers can make on-balance judgements about assessment of learning outcomes. Valid and reliable on-balance judgements can be supported by moderation processes within and between schools. Moderation processes should take into account individual staff differences and readiness.

Middle childhood teachers also refer to information from standardised tests to inform their judgements about students' achievement.

Teacher judgements inform summative grades for reporting. Reporting is a process, both formal and informal, for providing

information about the progress of student achievement. It provides a vital part of developing and maintaining the partnership between school and home.

When reporting, care needs to be taken to give students and parents/caregivers information that:

- is free of jargon and complex technical language
- focuses on strengths and what the student has achieved in the learning period
- reports student achievement in relation to standards, including national benchmarks
- is reliable and valid within and across schools
- is comprehensible to them (this may require use of interpreters and/or translations).

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Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus Summary

The *Middle Childhood (4-7) Syllabus* is designed to support teachers with planning and delivering learning, teaching and assessment programs in the context of the *Curriculum Framework*. The syllabus details content at each year of schooling across the middle childhood phase of development. When using these advisory materials, teachers will continue to make professional judgements about when to introduce content based on students' prior learning and achievement.

1 Purpose

This syllabus provides teachers with advice about content, planning, teaching and assessment in years 4-7.

Connections with other curriculum policy and support documents

This syllabus is consistent with, and can be used in conjunction with, the following policy and support documents:

- The Curriculum Framework for Kindergarten to Year 12 Education in Western Australia
 produced by the Curriculum Council of Western Australia. The Curriculum Framework
 establishes the learning outcomes expected of all Western Australian students from
 kindergarten to year 12.
- The Curriculum Council's Curriculum Framework Progress Maps. These describe
 progressive student achievement from kindergarten to year 12 and are a guide for
 monitoring and planning for student achievement.
- The Department of Education and Training's *Outcomes and Standards Framework*. This is similar to the *Progress Maps* but also includes Achievement Targets for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in WA public schools.
- The Curriculum Council's Curriculum Framework Curriculum Guides. These describe, in phases of development, content to support students' progress from kindergarten to year 12.

 The MCEETYA National Consistency in Curriculum Outcomes (NCCO) Statements of Learning. These are statements of learning agreed to by State and Territory Ministers for Education and are intended to provide greater consistency in curriculum outcomes across Australia.

As part of a K-12 approach, this syllabus also:

- builds on the Early Childhood (K-3) Syllabus
- prepares students for learning in years 8-10.

2 Phase of Development

Students in years 4-7:

- begin to see themselves as members of larger communities
- are better able work collaboratively and have greater interaction with people inside and outside the classroom
- begin to understand and appreciate different points of view and are interested in people from other times, places and cultures
- develop the ability to think in more abstract terms
- ask more focused questions
- can assume greater responsibility for managing and organising classroom activities.

The Curriculum Framework identifies seven principles of effective learning and teaching:

- opportunity to learn
- connection and challenge
- action and reflection
- motivation and purpose
- inclusivity and difference
- independence and collaboration
- supportive environment.

The principles of effective learning and teaching can be incorporated into teaching in years 4-7 in ways which take account of students' current stages of development.

3 Content

Content in this syllabus is organised into:

- K-10 overviews
- scope and sequence statements expressed in year levels to provide advice on starting points for learning, teaching and assessment programs.

Scope and sequence statements are provided for the following learning areas:

- The Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages (LOTE)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society and Environment
- Technology and Enterprise.

In addition cross-curriculum content relevant to the following national and state priority areas has been incorporated within the scope and sequence statements:

- Civics and Citizenship
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Physical activity
- Values.

4 Planning

When using the content in this syllabus to plan for learning, teachers of years 4-7 need to take into account the following:

- relevant policies and curriculum priorities
- students' achievement and learning needs

- opportunities to integrate learning
- the Curriculum Framework's principles of learning, teaching and assessment.

5 Assessment

The purpose of assessment is to monitor students' progress to:

- provide feedback
- inform planning, teaching and reporting.

When assessing, middle childhood teachers need to take into account the *Curriculum Framework's* principles of assessment and keep in mind the following:

- assessment relies on teachers' professional judgements
- assessment should be referenced to common standards as described in the Curriculum Framework Progress Maps/Outcomes and Standards Framework
- · teachers do not have to formally level or grade every piece of student work
- schools should have an assessment policy which is communicated to students and other members of the school community
- assessment can be undertaken in a variety of ways including via collection and marking of student work, observation, checklists, portfolios, recordings and anecdotal records
- teachers can select from a range of published or teacher developed resources to record assessment information.