

Summary of changes to the Western Australian Curriculum: The Arts, Music

Overall

The Western Australian Arts curriculum was originally adopted and adapted from the Australian Curriculum version 8.4 (2017) to develop year level syllabuses.

The Arts curriculum has been revised against the Australian Curriculum version 9, contextualised for the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* to meet the needs of students and teachers. The content has been clarified, and exemplified, to support teachers in planning for teaching, learning and assessment.

Strands – renamed

The Arts content is organised under common strands in each of the five Arts subjects. The Performance arts subjects, including Dance, Drama and Music, are organised under the three strands **Explore**, **Create** and **Perform**. The Visual Arts subjects, including Media Arts and Visual Arts, are organised under the three strands **Explore**, **Develop** and **Create**.

Learning area content

New content

- Examples are included across the strands to clarify terminology, support teacher understanding, and provide context for application of specific knowledge and concepts
- Stage presence skills have been linked to performance skills in Years 5 and 6 in the Perform strand
- Content descriptions have changed to include a reflective process from Year 8
- Inclusion of ‘relevant vocal/instrumental techniques’ from Year 8
- Inclusion of ‘compositional devices’ in Years 9 and 10

Deleted content

- Music Skills have been removed and relabelled the Elements of music as an Addendum.

Updated content

- Aural identification of the elements of music, and aural and/or visual analysis of music excerpts now sit under the Explore strand
- An Addendum has been created for the elements of music to be read alongside the curriculum to support teaching
- Content descriptions in the Explore strand have been reduced to three specific ideas: ‘analysis of music,’ ‘consideration of the role of culture in music’ and ‘responses to music listened to and performed’
- Content descriptions in the Explore strand include personal responses as well as critical personal, peer and teacher feedback about music listened to, recreated and created
- Content descriptions in the Create strand have been refined to two statements comprising: creating music ideas and recording/communicating music ideas

- Content descriptions in the Perform strand have been reduced to two reflecting performance processes' and performance skills'
- Renamed 'dynamics and expression' to 'expressive elements' in Years 7–10 for consistency from P–10
- Replaced 'conventional notation' with 'notation' to allow for various notation formats
- Performance process includes rehearsal strategies moving from teacher directed and facilitated to student led with increasing responsibility based on developing understanding of music knowledge and content

Year level descriptions

- Inclusion of phases of schooling information to provide teachers with guidance on the implementation of curriculum experiences which will support children and students at each developmental phase
- Updated to align with the revised content descriptions

Achievement standards

- Reviewed to align with revised content descriptions
- Consistent organisation of music content across the Explore, Create and Perform strands across year levels
- Language change from 'At standard' to 'By the end of the year'
- Ensured the standards provide specific information for teachers to make informed judgements about student achievement