



Western Australian Curriculum

The Arts | Media Arts

Year level descriptions | Pre-primary–Year 10

Revised curriculum | For familiarisation in 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

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Overview

The current Western Australian Curriculum: The Arts was adopted from the Australian Curriculum version 8.1.

Western Australia provided feedback to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) during the consultation for the Australian Curriculum.

The proposed revisions to the Western Australian Curriculum: The Arts, Media Arts are adopted and adapted from the Australian Curriculum version 9.

Pre-primary

In the early childhood phase of schooling, learning, development and wellbeing are connected and learning builds on the *Early Years Learning Framework* and each child's funds of knowledge. A holistic curriculum that integrates knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes across learning areas connects learning to children's lives and their natural curiosity about their world.

Media Arts provides opportunities for children to explore and express their personal experiences, ideas and stories through familiar technologies and engagement with images, sounds and symbols. Through guided play and hands-on experiences, they recognise and respond to media in their environment, including examples from different cultures or places.

In Pre-primary, children begin to develop foundational media skills through guided exploration, learning how to capture, select and arrange simple-images. Through experimentation with visual and symbolic conventions, such as colour and familiar objects, they begin to understand how meaning can be communicated. Children respond to media work by expressing likes, dislikes and personal connections, and learn to use media technologies responsibly.

Year 1

In the early childhood phase of schooling, learning, development and wellbeing are connected and learning experiences are informed by the Principles and Practices of the *Early Years Learning Framework*. A holistic curriculum that integrates knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes across learning areas connects learning to children's lives and their natural curiosity about their world.

Media Arts provides opportunities for children to explore ways of expressing ideas, feelings and experiences through images, sounds and text. Through guided play and hands-on exploration, children begin to understand how media work is constructed and how they communicate meaning. Collaborative learning experiences support creativity, problem-solving and include the exploration of media from different cultures, times or places.

In Year 1, children learn how media work can express ideas and feelings using images and sounds. They experiment with media conventions such as capturing and arranging images and sounds, using colour and objects symbolically, and adding text. Children view and respond to media work, expressing personal preferences and create and share their own media work, considering respectful practices.

Year 2

In the early childhood phase of schooling, learning, development and wellbeing are connected and learning experiences are informed by the Principles and Practices of the *Early Years Learning Framework*. A holistic curriculum that integrates knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes across learning areas connects learning to children's lives and their natural curiosity about their world.

Media Arts provides opportunities for children to develop their understanding of how stories and ideas can be communicated using images, sounds and text. Through hands-on exploration, children learn how media work can represent events, feelings and experiences and engage with media from different cultures, times or places.

In Year 2, children learn how combined and sequenced media represents simple stories and experiences. They respond to media work they view or create, and identify familiar features such as characters, setting and sound. Children experiment with media codes and conventions to create work that communicates a story to an audience, and learn to use media content responsibly.

Year 3

In the middle to late childhood phase of schooling, students develop a sense of self, their world expands, and they begin to see themselves as members of larger communities. Learning experiences emphasise and lead to an appreciation of both the commonality and diversity of human experience and concerns.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to explore and experiment with ways to tell stories and communicate meaning using images, sounds and digital tools. Through hands-on experiences, they begin to understand how media work is constructed and how they can convey ideas or messages. Media Arts introduces diverse perspectives, with students exploring the ways cultural identity, community and connection to place can be expressed.

In Year 3, students learn how to sequence images, audio and text to represent characters, settings and ideas in media work. They respond to their own and others' work using appropriate media terminology, and explore and experiment with technical, symbolic, audio and written codes and conventions. When creating media work, students begin to apply simple protocols around image and voice use, showing an awareness of privacy and consent.

Year 4

In the middle to late childhood phase of schooling, students develop a sense of self, their world expands, and they begin to see themselves as members of larger communities. Learning experiences emphasise and lead to an appreciation of both the commonality and diversity of human experience and concerns.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to explore how narrative structures and media conventions can be used to tell engaging stories and share messages. Through practical experiences, they begin to understand how media work represents ideas and reflects cultural values across different times and places. Students develop their ability to reflect on and discuss how meaning is created using media terminology.

In Year 4, students explore how media work uses a clear beginning, middle and end to organise events and communicate a message. They experiment with technical, symbolic, audio and written conventions to construct fictional or non-fictional characters, represent settings, and convey mood. Students create media work using narrative structures and follow appropriate protocols when sharing with an audience.

Year 5

In the middle to late childhood phase of schooling, students develop a sense of self, their world expands, and they begin to see themselves as members of larger communities. Learning experiences emphasise and lead to an appreciation of both the commonality and diversity of human experience and concerns.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to interpret, create and communicate meaning through visual, audio and digital storytelling. Through practical and collaborative experiences, they develop creativity and media literacy and explore the ways different cultures, times or places use media work to communicate contemporary and historical perspectives.

In Year 5, students investigate how narrative structures and media conventions communicate meaning and create points of view for specific audiences. They respond to media work using appropriate terminology to identify how codes and conventions convey ideas. Students experiment with technical, symbolic, audio and written conventions to construct character, setting and mood. They create media work with a clear message and apply responsible media practices.

Year 6

In the middle to late childhood phase of schooling, students develop a sense of self, their world expands, and they begin to see themselves as members of larger communities. Learning experiences emphasise and lead to an appreciation of both the commonality and diversity of human experience and concerns.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to interpret, create and refine media work that conveys ideas and perspectives through purposeful storytelling. With increasing control over codes and conventions, students continue to develop media literacy, collaboration and ethical awareness. Students explore how media work from different cultures, times or places can reflect, challenge and shape social and cultural values.

In Year 6, students investigate how narrative structures and media conventions influence audience understanding and point of view. They respond to media work using appropriate terminology and experiment with techniques such as camera movement, sound effects, lighting and text to shape meaning. Students create media work to engage and influence an audience and apply ethical and responsible media practices.

Year 7

In the early adolescence phase of schooling, students align with their peer group and begin to question established conventions, practices and values. Teaching and learning programs assist students to develop a broader and more comprehensive understanding of the contexts of their lives and the world in which they live.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to explore media work and produce their own media content. They develop essential media literacy skills while learning to communicate using media languages. Students build critical thinking, creativity, technical skills and collaborative abilities that are vital for navigating an increasingly digital world.

In Year 7, students explore contemporary media work and learn how media constructs meaning and representations. They develop practical skills with media technologies and techniques, learning how intended audiences influence creative decisions, and they work collaboratively in production teams. Students plan and create their own media work, applying codes and conventions to create meaning and to communicate with intended audiences while using technologies ethically and safely.

Year 8

In the early adolescence phase of schooling, students align with their peer group and begin to question established conventions, practices and values. Teaching and learning programs assist students to develop a broader and more comprehensive understanding of the contexts of their lives and the world in which they live.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to explore, question and construct their own media work to communicate meaning about their lives and world. Through hands-on, relevant and engaging media creation using media technologies, students develop critical and creative thinking, media literacy, and the collaboration and problem-solving skills that are essential for understanding contemporary media.

In Year 8, students use codes and conventions to create media work exploring narrative, genre or style in the productions they produce. They identify the purpose of contemporary and historical media work and how to construct representations in their own media work. Students explore media technologies and controls and constraints, to build an understanding of production processes and how intended audiences can impact the construction of meaning in media work. Students develop media literacy skills by applying their knowledge to interpret and create media work in a thoughtful, responsible and safe way for an intended audience.

Year 9

In the middle adolescence phase of schooling, teaching and learning programs encourage students to develop an open and questioning view of themselves as active participants in their society and the world.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to investigate and create media work that explores their world and contemporary issues. Through examining how media constructs meaning and represents different points of view, students develop media literacy skills while learning to produce their own content for intended audiences. Students build critical thinking, creativity, technical skills and collaborative abilities that allow for thoughtful engagement within a media-rich society.

In Year 9, students explore how media languages manipulate meaning as they experience Australian or international media work. They investigate representations and consider how controls and constraints impact content creation. Students experiment with codes and conventions to construct representations, using pre-production documentation to guide production processes. They learn how audiences influence the development of their media work, build technical skills, and work in teams within production roles. Students plan, create and share media work, reflecting on the way they construct meaning for audiences while making ethical decisions about responsible representation. They follow safe production practices and reflect on their media work.

Year 10

In the middle adolescence phase of schooling, teaching and learning programs encourage students to develop an open and questioning view of themselves as active participants in their society and the world.

Media Arts provides opportunities for students to develop media literacy skills through the creation and critique of media work. Through the purposeful and practical application of knowledge, skills and understanding, students produce meaningful media content. Students build the critical thinking and creative abilities necessary for informed participation in a media-saturated world.

In Year 10, students develop skills as both media critics and creators. They investigate how ideas, issues, people or places are represented in Australian and international media work. Students explore media technologies, controls and constraints and media industry organisations. Students learn technical skills, such as camera operation and video editing, experiment with codes and conventions to construct representations, narrative, genre or style and work within production roles. They create original media work by planning productions for intended audiences and follow planning processes, from pre-production through to distribution. Students learn to question media messaging while gaining hands-on experience creating their own media work with a focus on responsible media use.