

Summary of changes to the Western Australian Curriculum: Science

Overall

The Western Australian Science curriculum was originally adopted from the Australian Curriculum version 8.1 (2017) to develop year level syllabuses.

The Science 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.

Strand and sub-strands – renamed

Science inquiry skills

Science inquiry skills renamed **Science inquiry**

Sub-strand **Processing and analysing data and information** renamed **Processing, modelling and analysing**

Strand and sub-strands – deleted and new

Science as a human endeavour

Removal of the strand **Science as a human endeavour**

New sub-strand **Collaborating and applying** included in the strand **Science inquiry**

Learning area content

New content

- Inclusion of an additional sub-strand called Collaborating and applying
- Content from Science as a human endeavour is incorporated in the new sub-strand Collaborating and applying to allow for authentic planning, teaching and learning opportunities for the application and relevance of science in the real world
- Examples have been added to clarify content descriptions and, where appropriate, to support teacher understanding and provide contexts for teaching
- The examples are not mandated; teachers may use additional contexts that are appropriate to students and the school community
- The language in the content descriptions across the Science understandings has been strengthened to support teacher understanding
- Inclusion of new Science understanding content in Years 7, 8 and 10 Earth and space sciences to contextualise for Western Australia's space and mining sectors
- Inclusion of new Science understanding content in Year 9 Biological sciences to contextualise for Western Australia's biological diversity
- Inclusion of new Science understanding content in Year 9 Chemical sciences to include content being taught that is not explicit in the content

Reorganised content

- Content in Science inquiry is organised in six sub-strands to support content threads that are clear and developmentally appropriate to the year level
- The content in Science inquiry remains banded; however, the examples are year level specific and support teacher understanding of the content
- Appropriate year level content has been included from Pre-primary to Year 6 in all Science understanding sub-strands to support the progressive nature of student learning across the years of schooling
- The Year 8 states of matter content from the Science understanding sub-strand Chemical sciences has moved to Year 7 and the Year 10 structure of atoms content for the Science understanding sub-strand Chemical sciences has moved to Year 9
- Year 9 Science understanding content for Earth and space sciences has been moved to Year 8 to allow the integration of the rock cycle and tectonic process and Year 10 global systems and climate change content moved to Year 9

Year level descriptions

Updated material

- Inclusion of Phases of Schooling information to provide teachers with guidance about the sorts of curriculum experiences likely to support children and students at each phase
- Updated to align with the revised content descriptions

Achievement standards

Changes

- Reviewed to align with revised content descriptions
- Consistent organisation of Science understanding and Science inquiry across year levels
- Ensured the standards provide specific information for teachers to make informed judgements about student achievement