

# The National Curriculum

In September 2014 the primary school curriculum was revised.

The reason for the revision is to raise standards. Educationalists have been inspired by the teaching in some of the world's most successful school systems, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Finland, as well as in the best UK schools. The curriculum has been designed to produce productive, creative and well educated students.

Although the new curriculum has a raised expectation and is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the previous National Curriculum; focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills such as essay writing and computer programming. The revision also echo similar changes to the curriculum in [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#), which were implemented in 2010 and 2008 respectively and have a similar **focus on excellence and core skills**.

## Main changes

The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects covered by the National Curriculum.

Subject	What's new?
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stronger emphasis on <b>vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling</b> (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)</li><li>• <b>Handwriting</b> – not currently assessed under the national curriculum – is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy</li><li>• <b>Spoken English</b> has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught <a href="#">debating</a> and presenting skills as well being expected to identify the difference between the spoken language and the written language. At Chudleigh School we are encouraging children to use their '<b>school voice</b>' orally and in their writing.</li></ul>
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100</b> (compared to 20 as outlined in the previous curriculum) and learn <b>number bonds to 20</b> (previously up to 10)</li><li>• <b>Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1</b>, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. <math>0.375 = 3/8</math>)</li><li>• By the age of nine, children will be expected to know <b>times tables up to 12x12</b> (previously 10x10 by the end of</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>primary school)</li> <li>• Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage and develop mental arithmetic skills</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a stronger <b>focus on scientific knowledge and language</b>, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms</li> <li>• <b>Evolution</b> will be taught in primary schools for the first time</li> <li>• Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system</li> </ul>
<b>Design &amp; technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afforded <b>greater importance under the new curriculum</b>, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future</li> <li>• More sophisticated <b>use of design equipment</b> such as electronics and robotics</li> <li>• In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world</li> </ul>
<b>ICT / Computing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a <b>greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs</b></li> <li>• From age five, <a href="#">children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data</a></li> <li>• From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet</li> <li>• Internet safety – previously only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <a href="#">modern foreign language (MfL) or ancient language is now mandatory in KS2</a>. At Chudleigh School we will continue to teach French as our MfL – in year 3 and 4 class teachers will teach this area of the curriculum, in years 5 and 6 this will be supported by specialist MfL teachers from Teign School.</li> <li>• Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language</li> </ul>

## **Changes to end of Key Stage assessments**

The Department for Education is currently in the process of reforming KS 1 and 2 tests to reflect the changes to the curriculum - details of the changes will be discussed during the Spring Term Curriculum evening for parents.

For more information about the [\*\*New National Curriculum please click on this link\*\*](#)