

# Australian Curriculum

## A Guide for Parents

Catholic Education Diocese of Lismore



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE  
DIOCESE OF LISMORE





The Australian Curriculum sets out what all young Australians are to be taught, and the expected quality of their learning as they progress through schooling. At the same time, through State developed syllabuses, it provides flexibility for schools and teachers to build on student learning and interest.

The development of the Australian Curriculum means that greater attention can be devoted to equipping young Australians with the skills, knowledge, understandings and capabilities necessary to enable them to effectively engage with and prosper in society, compete in a globalised world and thrive in the information-rich workplaces of the future.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), in collaboration with states and territories, has developed an agreed Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History. Each of these learning areas includes content statements that represent essential learning for all Australian students.



The Australian Curriculum focuses on ensuring an entitlement to a sound body of knowledge, skills and values for all students while acknowledging that the needs and interests of students will vary. The curriculum provides the content and a set of achievement standards which dictate the expected quality of learning in year levels from K to Year 10.

The NSW Board of Studies has worked closely with teachers and key education stakeholders to develop from the Australian Curriculum syllabuses that give further detail and clarification for teaching and learning in our State.

The new State syllabuses build on the strength of the existing NSW curriculum. Many features of the new K–10 English, Mathematics, Science (incorporating Science and Technology K–6) and History syllabuses are evidence of this.

The syllabuses identify the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes that students are expected to develop in each learning area. They are designed to provide flexibility for teachers to engage all learners in a contemporary way. Literacy and Numeracy remain important areas of focus in K–6, where essential foundation skills are developed.



In addition to subject-based content, all syllabuses address important contemporary themes and general capabilities as students prepare to live and work successfully in the 21st century and beyond.

These include cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities and other learning across the curriculum areas identified by the Board of Studies.

### **Cross-curriculum priorities**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures  
Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia  
Sustainability

### **General capabilities**

Critical and creative thinking  
Ethical understanding  
Information and communication technology capability  
Intercultural understanding  
Literacy  
Numeracy  
Personal and social capability

### **Other learning across the curriculum areas**

Civics and citizenship  
Difference and diversity  
Work and enterprise

We are confident that the curriculum is in alignment with our Catholic culture and our family and community values. It also acknowledges the professionalism of our teachers and the local context in which we work and live. Religious Education will continue to be central to our curriculum, and links will be made to enable teachers to integrate the key understandings of the Australian Curriculum into a Catholic World View. The general capabilities (critical and creative thinking, ethical behaviour and personal and social capability, and the cross-curriculum priority – Sustainability) complement our Religious Education framework. Having a consistent approach to teaching and learning enables teachers to work and plan collaboratively to provide a high quality education for all students.

Catholic schools and colleges in our diocese will start the implementation in 2014.

#### **K-6**

English and Science & Technology	2014
Mathematics and History	2015

#### **7-10**

English, Mathematics, Science and History – Years 7 & 9	2014
English, Mathematics, Science and History – Years 8 & 10	2015

Teachers are well supported during the curriculum change by:

- extensive professional learning addressing the new areas
- staff development days allowing full staff engagement
- key note speakers in curriculum areas working with our staff
- the Diocese of Lismore website containing a wealth of resources

### **Where can I find more information?**

Contact your school for further information particular to your school.

Parents' page on the Board of Studies website: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents>  
Board of Studies NSW syllabuses website: <http://syllabuses.bos.nsw.edu.au>

For a detailed overview of the Australian Curriculum and its development, parents are encouraged to access the paper, 'The Shape of the Australian Curriculum' on the ACARA (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) website:  
[www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au)