



Learning in England ∞ National Curriculum

9 > What is in the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4?

Every child in a state-funded school must be taught the National Curriculum. It is a useful guide. Other types of school may also follow what is specified. Each subject will have prescribed content and skills that can be developed through Key Stages 1-4. Children are assessed at the end of each Key Stage. [See our first Information Document on Understanding Education in Schools in England and an explanation of the Key Stages].

The Assessment at the end of Key Stage 2 is important as it is at the end of Primary Level of education. The results are used to inform the parents and the Secondary School that the child will join for Key Stage 3.

“Children in state schools are used to independent learning, and group work and did not expect teachers to lecture them on exam. technique.”¹

At Key Stage 4 the compulsory National Curriculum subjects are the ‘**Core**’ and ‘**Foundation**’ subjects:

Core Subjects	Foundation Subjects
English	Citizenship
Mathematics	Computing
Science	Physical Education

State-funded Schools **must also offer at least one subject from each** of these Columns:

Arts	Design and Technology	Humanities	
Drama	Design and Technology	Geography	French
Fine Art		History	German
Music			Spanish

¹ Orla Douglas trained with Teach First. She writes under a pseudonym. The guardian 5.12.12



They **must** also provide Religious Education (RE) and Sex Education.

You can find more details on the **gov.uk** website relating to Key Stage 4 – which is the two-year stage for 14-16 year olds, ending with the GCSE exams.

Pupils will be assessed at GCSE in the Core Subjects: English, Maths and Science and may then choose which other subjects to undertake. [Please see our Information Document on Choosing GCSEs.]



Q

My daughter loves Latin. This subject is not part of the National Curriculum. Can she choose Latin for GCSE?

A

Schools do not have to offer Latin, but in Oxfordshire quite a number do. Sometimes it is not offered as a subject on the Timetable. A teacher may offer lessons at lunchtime or after school. We have undertaken research about what schools offer at GCSE. Ask us, at Paths to Learning if you have specific requirements for your child.