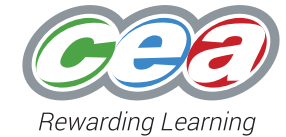


A parents' guide to the primary Northern Ireland Curriculum



If you have a child aged 4–11 who goes to primary school in Northern Ireland, they'll be following the **Northern Ireland Curriculum**.

This is designed to make sure that all children have the opportunity to gain knowledge and learn important skills they'll need for life and work. It also recognises that every child is unique, and its aim is for each child to reach their full potential.

Below are the **Areas of Learning**, **Cross-Curricular Skills** and **Thinking Skills and Capabilities** that are part of the curriculum.

Primary school curriculum stages

Foundation Stage	Year 1
	Year 2
Key Stage 1	Year 3
	Year 4
Key Stage 2	Year 5
	Year 6
	Year 7

Areas of Learning

Language and Literacy

Talking and listening
Reading
Writing

Mathematics and Numeracy

Processes in mathematics
Number
Measures
Shape and space
Handling data

The Arts

Art and design
Drama
Music

The World Around Us

Geography
History
Science and technology

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Emotional and physical health and wellbeing
Safety
Understanding others and their views
Being part of a community

Physical Education

(Physical Development and Movement in Foundation Stage)
Athletics
Dance
Games
Gymnastics
Swimming *(in Key Stage 2)*

Religious Education

Focuses on encouraging children to learn and ask questions about their own and others' religious beliefs and practices
(Note: RE is a compulsory part of the curriculum, although parents can withdraw their child from part or all of RE and/or collective worship.)

Cross-Curricular Skills

Communication
Using Mathematics
Using ICT

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Managing Information
Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
Being Creative
Working with Others
Self-Management



Your child's learning

Throughout school, your child will have opportunities to learn and develop skills in all the curriculum areas through different themes and topics. They'll also be actively involved in their own learning and assessment. For example, they'll think about:

- » What am I going to learn?
- » Why will this be useful for me?
- » What am I doing well?
- » What could I do to improve my work?
- » How can I use what I already know?
- » What can I do if I get stuck?



The teacher's role

While they follow the same curriculum, teachers have lots of flexibility to plan learning experiences that suit every child's individual needs and interests. They know that children learn best when their learning is relevant and connected. They'll use different teaching methods that aim to make learning interactive, practical and fun.

They'll also plan the school day with a focus on skills, thinking about how best to help each child become an informed, confident, responsible adult and lifelong learner.



Supporting your child

Showing lots of interest in what your child is learning is a great way to support what they're doing at school. You can:

- » Talk with your child about their learning each day.
- » Read to and with your child.
- » Encourage them to have a go, especially when they're not sure.
- » Praise their effort even more than their results.
- » Suggest strategies they can try when they get stuck.
- » Encourage them to ask questions.



Working together

Each year, you'll have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher at a parents' meeting. This is a time set aside for you to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and explore ways to support their learning at home.

At the end of each school year, you'll receive a written annual report. This tells you about your child's learning and progress in the Areas of Learning, the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Find out more



[The Northern Ireland Curriculum Primary](#)

Sets out the curriculum requirements that primary schools need to follow



[Preparing for primary school](#)

Practical advice on what to expect when starting school and how to support your child



[Special educational needs](#)

Information for parents of children with special educational needs



[School starting age](#)

Information from the Department of Education, including the option for some children to defer the start of primary school for one year



[Tips for parents on how to help their child with their education](#)

Includes ideas on helping with playing, talking, reading, writing and maths



[The curriculum and your child](#)

Links to more detailed information from CCEA on the curriculum through to age 16

Video links



[The Northern Ireland Curriculum](#)



[Quick Guide to Starting School](#)



[Assessment in Northern Ireland](#)