



ACT Curriculum Taskforce Newsletter for ACT Schools

Australian Curriculum Developments

Newsletter 13 – Term 3 2013

Australian Curriculum Online Resources: Education Services Australia

An exciting range of resources to enhance teaching and learning is now available online. Published by Education Services Australia and linked to the *Australian Curriculum*, they are easily accessed by teachers, engaging for students, and can be used in a variety of innovative ways.

Scootle

Scootle provides access to more than 20,000 online resources aligned to the *Australian Curriculum*. Examples include learning objects, which combine images, text, audio and animation, and digital resources such as museum artefacts, artworks, photographs, archival and contemporary documents, video footage, maps, posters, songs and speeches.



Two of the more recently added resources aligned to the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* are GeogSpace and ARKive.



Exemplar units of work for all primary and secondary grades are supported by an extensive range of geospatial technologies resources. Units of work have been developed by the Australian Geography Teachers' Association.

ARKive allows students to discover and learn about the world's endangered animals, plants and fungi. The range of resources available includes teacher notes, presentations, activity packs and video and sound files.



SCOOTLE Community

Scootle Community is a social network interface where teachers can share ideas with peers around the country and quickly access high-quality teaching and learning resources.

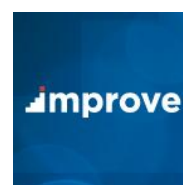
More than 70 teacher champions from across Australia have already created networks around topics of shared interest, such as teaching in remote areas, technology in the classroom and working with gifted students.



Scootle Community can be accessed via a desktop computer, smart phone or tablet and is free to all Australian educators who have registered as Scootle users.

Improve

Improve allows teachers to access numeracy, literacy and science test items and relevant online resources linked to the *Australian Curriculum*. Teachers can also create customised assessment tasks to suit the learning needs of their students.



Parents can keep up-to-date with topics covered at school and monitor their child's progress via the parent dashboard.

Frequently Asked Questions: *The Australian Curriculum and Assessment and Reporting*

Each newsletter published in 2013 will include responses to a series of questions provided by stakeholders. These questions and responses may be used in your own publications to provide advice to interested parties.

What is unique about the online *Australian Curriculum*?

The unique online capability of the *Australian Curriculum* allows teachers to view content and construct units of work using a range of display and filtering functions. Catering for different levels of student need is also supported by the ability to view the learning continuum for any given subject from Foundation to Year 10.

Resources to support learning can be discovered via the curriculum and, conversely, online resources, such as those accessed through Scootle, can be tagged and identified in relation to curriculum content.

Foundation Year

Filters Showing selected subjects General capabilities Cross-curriculum priorities

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Show Level descriptions Content descriptions Achievement standards Icons

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[English](#) [History](#) [Geography](#)

English

English Level Description

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Teaching and learning programs should balance and integrate all three strands. Together...

[Read full description](#)

History

History Level Description

Personal and Family Histories

The Foundation curriculum provides a study of personal and family histories. Students learn about their own history and that of their family; this may include stories from different cultures...

Geography

Geography Level Description

People live in places focuses on developing students' understanding of place. Students explore the place they live in and belong to, and learn to observe and describe its features. Learning...

[Read full description](#)

Will there be a change to the way students are assessed?

Assessment is the process of gathering and interpreting evidence to make judgements about student learning. The purpose of assessment is to inform teaching, improve student achievement and report on student progress.

Each *Australian Curriculum* subject includes a nationally developed and validated Achievement Standard that describes the quality of learning (the depth of understanding, extent of knowledge and sophistication of skill) expected of students at the end of each year level. The Achievement Standards, in conjunction with online annotated work samples, are the reference point for teachers when assigning grades to students.

If a student participates in a personalised learning program, they may be assessed using Achievement Standards that are different from their year level. This will be reflected in a student's report, and teachers will provide information to parents about the adjustments made.

Will there be a change to reporting on student achievement?

The *Australian Curriculum* Achievement Standards and online annotated work samples are the reference point for assigning grades for English, mathematics, science and history. The *ACT Every Chance to Learn* curriculum framework remains the reference point for all other learning areas until remaining *Australian Curriculum* subjects are phased in.

In the ACT, student achievement in Years 1–10 is reported using A–E grades. It has been agreed that a 'C' grade represents a significant achievement and indicates that a student is performing at the standard expected at that year level.

Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards describe expected end-of-year achievement. Grades given on the mid-year or semester one progress report reflect the knowledge, skills and understandings studied so far in the learning area. The end-of-year or semester two report is summative and based on achievement over the whole year.

What is the reporting format for kindergarten students?

The learning progress of ACT kindergarten students will be reported twice a year by schools using the *Australian Curriculum* Achievement Standards. As is currently the case, kindergarten students will not be graded on an A – E scale.

Does the change of curriculum involve more testing for students?

The *Australian Curriculum* does not require additional testing of students. Assessment requirements remain the same and include:

- ongoing school-based assessments to monitor learning, inform teaching and provide feedback to students;
- summative assessment for the purposes of twice-yearly reporting;
- beginning and end-of-year PIPS testing for kindergarten students in public schools; and
- annual testing of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students' levels of achievement as part of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

What support is available to schools to implement the *Australian Curriculum*?

The *Australian Curriculum* is an online curriculum. Through the *Australian Curriculum* website, teachers can access elaborations that provide examples related to curriculum content and portfolios of annotated student work samples to illustrate levels of achievement in relation to the Achievement Standards. Parents and caregivers are also encouraged to visit the site.

Teachers can now access over 20,000 free online, quality-assured education resources to support delivery of the *Australian Curriculum* through Scootle. The Scootle website is constantly revised and added to, ensuring ease of use, currency and quality of resources.



The ACT Curriculum Taskforce was convened to support cross-sectoral implementation of the Australian Curriculum in the ACT. The work of the ACT Curriculum Taskforce is supported by the Australian Curriculum Implementation Committee.