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Date: 20th December, 2023

TO: All Regional Directors of Education
All County Directors of Education
All Sub-County Directors of Education

RATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AREAS IN THE COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM (CBC)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER) report was launched on 1st August, 2023. On the recommendations about the implementation of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC), the PWPER recommended, among others, that:

“The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) rationalises the number of learning areas and curriculum designs in terms of scope and integration of subjects within learning areas, gaps, content overload and overlaps in Basic Education as follows (Pg. 35):

- i. Pre-Primary (PP1 – PP2): The learning areas not to exceed five (5);
- ii. Lower Primary (Grade 1-3): The learning areas not to exceed seven (7);
- iii. Upper Primary (Grade 4-6): The learning areas not to exceed eight (8);
- iv. Junior School (Grade 7-9): The learning areas not to exceed nine (9);
- v. Senior School (Grade 10-12): The learning areas not to exceed seven (7);”

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), in consultation with the Ministry of Education (MoE) has rationalised learning areas as follows:

2. PRE-PRIMARY (PP1 – PP2)

The learning areas at this level are currently five (5); hence, they shall remain as they are IN consistency with the recommendation by the PWPER report. The number of lessons per activity area are indicated as provided in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Learning Activity Areas and number of lessons for Pre Primary

Activity Learning Area	No of Lessons
Language Activities	5
Mathematical activities	5
Creative Activities	6
Environmental Activities	5
Religious Activities	3
Pastoral/Religious Instruction Programme	1
TOTAL	25

3. LOWER PRIMARY (GRADE 1-3)

- The learning areas for lower primary have been reduced from the current nine (9) to seven (7).
- The number of lessons to be reduced from 35 to 31 per week including Pastoral Programme of Instruction (PPI).
- Hygiene and Nutrition Activities* learning areas to be integrated within *Environmental Activities* with 4 lessons.
- Creative Arts* to comprise aspects of *Art, Craft, Music and Physical Education* with a total of seven (7) lessons.
- The learning areas and number of lessons at Lower Primary are as indicated on Table 1, below:

Table 1: Learning areas and number of lessons at Lower Primary:

Current Lesson Allocation				Rationalised Lesson Allocation	
S/No.	Learning Area	Lesson	S/No.	Learning Area	Lessons
1	Indigenous Language Activities	2	1	Indigenous Language Activities	2
2	Kiswahili Language Activities/ Kenya Sign Language Activities	4	2	Kiswahili Language Activities/ Kenya Sign Language Activities	4
3	English Language Activities	5	3	English Language Activities	5
4	Mathematical Activities	5	4	Mathematical Activities	5
5	Religious Education Activities	3	5	Religious Education Activities	3
6	Environmental Activities	5	6	Environmental Activities (to include Hygiene and Nutrition Activities)	4
7	Hygiene and Nutrition Activities	2			
8	Movement and Creative Activities	8	7	Creative Activities	7
	Pastoral/ Religious Instruction Programme	1		Pastoral/ Religious Instruction Programme	1
	TOTAL	35		TOTAL	31

4. UPPER PRIMARY (GRADES 4, 5 & 6)

- i. The learning areas for upper primary to be reduced from ten (10) to eight (8).
- ii. The number of lessons to be reduced from **forty (40)** to **thirty-five (35)** per week including Pastoral/ Religious Programme of Instruction
- iii. *Agriculture* has been integrated with aspects of *Home Science* into one composite subject referred to as **Agriculture and Nutrition** to have four (4) lessons per week.
- vi. **Creative Arts** to comprise aspects of Art & Craft, Music and Physical Education with a total of 7 lessons
- vii. **Other Languages** (Indigenous Language & Foreign Languages) to be implemented as non-formal (co-curricular) programmes.
- viii. The learning areas and number of lessons at Upper Primary are as indicated on Table 2, below:

Table 2: Learning areas and number of lessons at Upper Primary.

Current Lesson Allocation				Rationalised Lesson Allocation	
S/No.	Learning Area	Lessons	S/No.	Learning Area	Lessons
1	English	4	1.	English	5
2	Kiswahili/ Kenya Sign Language	4	2.	Kiswahili/ Kenya Sign Language	4
3	Mathematics	5	3.	Mathematics	5
4	Religious Education	3	4.	Religious Education	3
4.	Science & Technology	4	5.	Science & Technology	4
5	Agriculture	3	6.	Agriculture & Nutrition	4
6	Home Science	3			
7	Social Studies	3	7.	Social Studies	3
9	Physical Health Education	5	8.	Creative Arts	6
10	Creative Arts	3			
11	Other Languages	2			
	Pastoral/ Religious Instruction Programme	1		Pastoral/ Religious Instruction Programme	1
	TOTAL	40		TOTAL	35

5. JUNIOR SCHOOL

- i. The learning areas for Junior School to be reduced from fourteen (14) to nine (9).
- ii. **ALL** the nine (9) core subjects **SHALL** be taken by **ALL** learners.
- iii. The number of lessons have been reduced from **forty-five (45)** to **forty (40)** per week including Pastoral Programme of Instruction (PPI)
- iv. *Integrated Science* and *Health Education* have been integrated into one learning area referred as **Integrated Science** with five (5) lessons per week.
- v. *Social Studies* and *Life Skills Education* have been integrated into one learning area referred as **Social Studies** with four (4) lessons per week.

- vi. *Agriculture* and aspects of *Home-science* have been integrated into one composite subject referred as **Agriculture & Nutrition** with four (4) lessons per week. *Please note that there are other concepts of Home science have been integrated within Integrated Science and other relevant learning areas.*
- vii. *Pre-technical Studies, Computer Studies and Business Studies* have been integrated into one composite subject referred as **Pre-Technical Studies** with four (4) lessons per week.
- viii. *Physical Education and Sports, Visual Arts and Performing Arts* have been integrated into one composite subject referred as **Creative Arts and Sports** with five (5) lessons per week.
- ix. **Other Languages** (Foreign, Sign Language (SL) and Indigenous Language) to be implemented as non- formal programmes; these shall be non-examinable at Junior School. Designs and curriculum support materials shall be provided to schools to guide their implementation.
- x. The learning areas and number of lessons at Junior School are as indicated on Table 3, below:

Table 3: Learning areas and number of lessons at Junior School.

Current Lesson Allocation			Rationalised Lesson Allocation		
S/No.	Learning Area	Lessons	S/No.	Learning Area	Lessons
1	English	5	1	English	5
2	Kiswahili/Kenya Sign Language (KSL)	4	2	Kiswahili/Kenya Sign Language (KSL)	4
3	Mathematics	5	3	Mathematics	5
4	Religious Education	4	4	Religious Education	4
5	Social Studies	3	5	Social Studies <i>(Including Life Skills Education)</i>	4
6	Life skills	1			
6	Integrated Science	4	6	Integrated Science <i>(Including Health Education)</i>	5
7	Health Education	2			
8	Pre-technical Studies	4	7	Pre-technical Studies	4
9	Business Studies	3	8	Agriculture and Nutrition	4
10	Agriculture	3			
10	Homescience	3	9	Creative Arts and Sports	5
11	Sports & P.E	5			
12	Visual Arts	2			
13	Performing Arts	3		None	
14	Optional Learning Area	3			
	TOTAL	45			40 +1

NOTE: Rationalisation of learning areas at Senior School is on-going; a circular on rationalised learning areas at Senior School shall be issued later.

You are required to bring this information to the attention of all Headteachers of Primary and Junior Schools within your area of jurisdiction and ensure this directive is implemented.

Revised curriculum designs for the rationalised learning areas shall be available on the KICD Website from January, 2024 and will be distributed to schools in the course of the first term 2024. Guidelines on Senior School shall be released during First Term, 2024.


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PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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