

For:

- Parents
- Governors



National
Curriculum



Qualifications
and Curriculum
Development
Agency

Primary for parents

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in the future education of your children. It's important to understand what your children will study in school and how they will learn. A new primary curriculum is being introduced in September 2011 and schools will begin planning for this soon. This factsheet tells you what this will mean for your children.

Why is the curriculum changing?

The primary curriculum was last changed a decade ago. There have been huge steps forward in the past 10 years and we owe it to our children to offer them a dynamic curriculum that acknowledges our changing world. This new curriculum reflects what the best schools are already doing and draws on what other developed countries are doing in their primary schools.

What's different about this curriculum?

The new curriculum will give schools and teachers more opportunities to make learning enjoyable for your children. It will ensure they make good progress and achieve well. And it will give them the confidence they need to live a safe, healthy and fulfilling life and to make a positive contribution to our society.

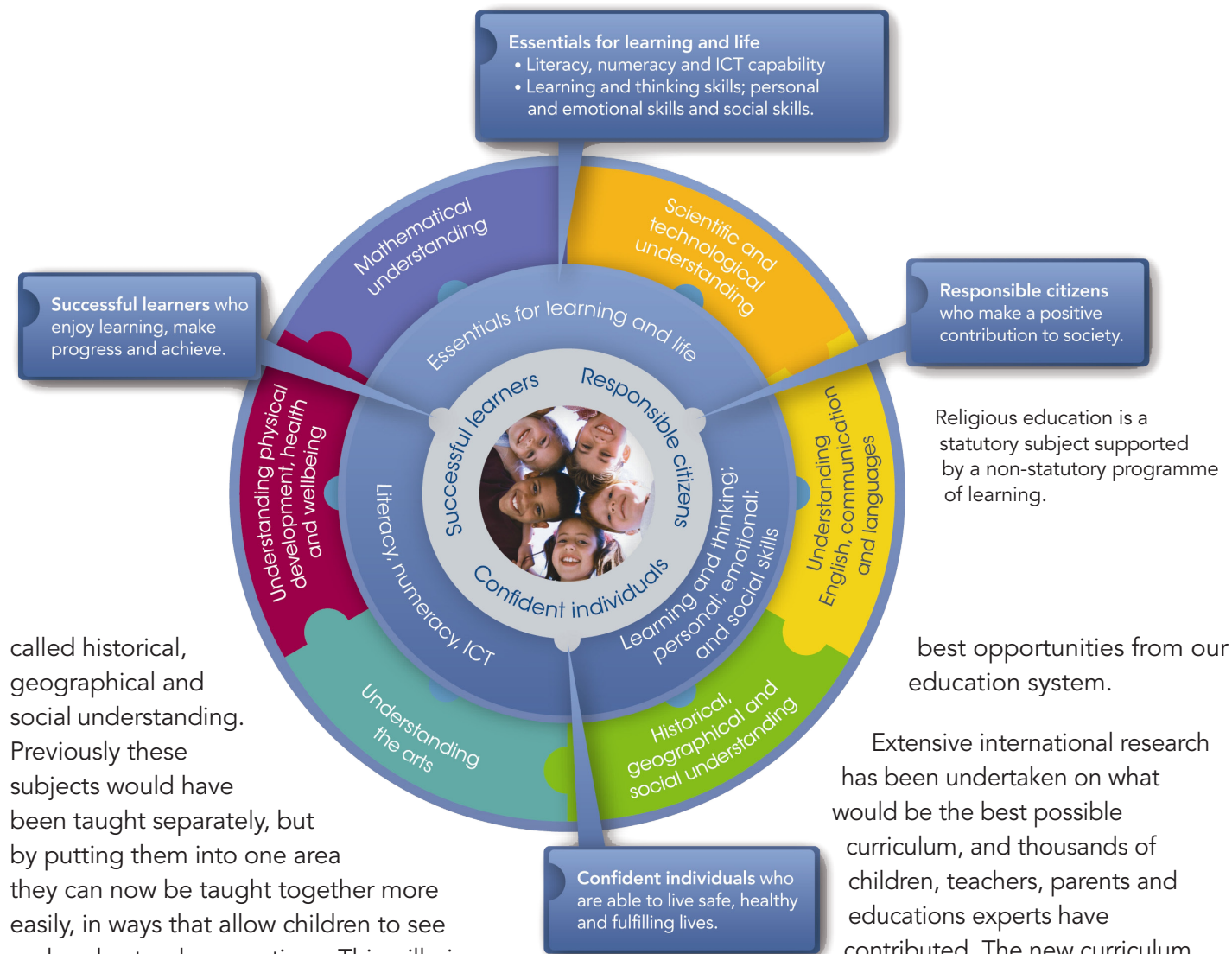
The new curriculum will contain those essential skills for learning and life that we, as adults, often take for granted – skills like reading, writing and mathematics of course, but also learning and thinking skills, personal and emotional skills and social skills.

We've also added another essential skill needed in these modern times – information and communication technology (ICT). This will ensure your children are prepared for the world that awaits them upon leaving school. This increased focus on ICT will ensure that all children get the same opportunities to learn and apply ICT.

**What makes learning worthwhile?
I can't explain it, but it's something
in your heart, something that
inspires you."** A year 6 pupil

A key aspect of the new curriculum is that subjects have been reorganised into six areas of learning. These areas of learning will give schools more flexibility to link subjects together when they plan their curriculum. For example, history, geography and social studies have been grouped into a new area





called historical, geographical and social understanding. Previously these subjects would have been taught separately, but by putting them into one area they can now be taught together more easily, in ways that allow children to see and understand connections. This will give children a better understanding of how and why things happen – the bigger picture if you like.

The new curriculum will give children a deeper knowledge and understanding of life and the world around them. It will give their learning real context and real meaning. It will also provide better links between school, home and the community and better prepare them for secondary school.

The new curriculum gives schools the flexibility to adapt their teaching and learning to their local environment and community while still fulfilling their statutory obligations. It also gives schools the ability to adapt their curriculum to suit each child's needs. It has been developed to ensure all children get the

best opportunities from our education system.

Extensive international research has been undertaken on what would be the best possible curriculum, and thousands of children, teachers, parents and education experts have contributed. The new curriculum was the subject of a public consultation in the summer of 2009, and was endorsed by over 70 per cent of respondents.

Parents matter

Your interest in your children's education is important and will help them to achieve their potential. Visit the *National curriculum* website to find out more about the primary curriculum and watch the video case studies to see how the new curriculum might look in your children's school.

For further information

Visit www.qcda.gov.uk/curriculum.

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QCDA/10/4792

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First published in February 2010

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