

THE PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

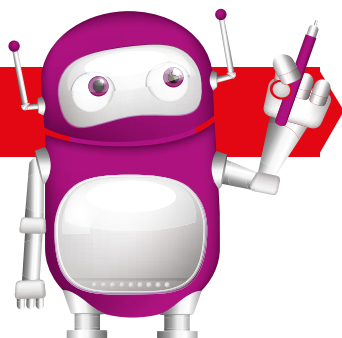
The essential
pocket guide
no parent should
be without

Primary

The National Curriculum

Many parents struggle to get their heads around how the curriculum will affect their child's learning and what they can do to help.

With this in mind, we have put together a handy pocket guide covering primary Years 1-6 (ages 5-11) that explains some of the key areas of the **curriculum** and how to support your child through them at home.



What parents need to know about Maths

- 1 Nine-year-olds need to know all their tables up to 12×12 .

How you can help: For $\times 12$ try multiplying a number by 10 and then doubling the start number. 12×12 is ($10 \times 12 = 120$); then ($2 \times 12 = 24$). Add them together and you have your answer!

- 2 Maths facts should be learned by heart. Calculators shouldn't be used until mental and written methods have been mastered at the end of primary school.

How you can help: For addition sums, try counting on from the larger number. For subtraction, use known facts, e.g. 'I know $4 + 2 = 6$, so I also know that $6 - 4 = 2$.'

- 3 Basic fractions such as $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ are introduced at age five.

How you can help: Investigate fractions through paper-folding and sharing chocolate or fruit!

- 4 By the end of Year 1, children will be expected to count up to 100. Five-year-olds will also need to learn number bonds to 20.

How you can help: Use a number grid from 1-100 to support your child with counting and place value.

- 5 By the end of primary school, children should add and subtract fractions - this was previously covered at secondary school.

How you can help: Make sure your child understands that fractions of a whole add up to 1.

What parents need to know about English

- 1 Commas and apostrophes will be taught to six-year-olds.

How you can help: Ask your child to turn a shopping list into a sentence using commas to separate the different items.

- 2 As well as punctuation, there's an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar and spelling at all ages.

How you can help: Play grammar games such as 'odd one out' where your child has to find one noun out of three words.

- 3 Children should participate in discussions from the age of five.

How you can help: Talk to your children about things they watch and experience.

- 4 From age five onwards, children will listen and react to poetry at a level higher than their reading level.

How you can help: Share poetry together and have fun performing it.

- 5 The curriculum includes spelling lists for ages 7-9 and 9-11.

How you can help: Use spelling cards to practise tricky words. You can find spelling lists in the 'English Programmes of Study' area at www.gov.uk/national-curriculum.

What parents need to know about Science

- 1** There is a focus on scientific knowledge and vocabulary.

How you can help: Identify plants and animals in your local area.

- 2** Six-year-olds learn about animal habitats and food chains.

How you can help: Draw a simple food chain to show how animals obtain food from plants and other animals.

- 3** Eight-year-olds need to describe how fossils are formed.

How you can help: Contact your local museum to see if they have fossil samples to view or plan a research trip to your nearest library.

- 4** Ten-year-olds learn about the human circulatory system.

How you can help: Help your child to understand what happens to food inside the digestive system.

- 5** 'Evolution and inheritance' is taught at the end of primary, developing the idea that living things change over time, adapting to their environment.

How you can help: Introduce your child to Charles Darwin and his voyage to the Galapagos Islands using online resources as a prompt.

What parents need to know about History

1 British history is emphasised and events should be taught in chronological order, from the earliest times to the present day.

How you can help: Create a timeline and work with your child to put significant events from their memory in the correct order.

2 Five-year-olds learn about significant individuals from the past who have contributed to national achievements, e.g. Elizabeth I, William Caxton and Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

How you can help: Spend time with your child researching these famous people and then ask your child to write about why each is important.

3 From age seven, children learn about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

How you can help: Visit local museums, archaeology units or history centres to view artefacts from this period. Ask your child to record all the artefacts they discover.

4 From age seven, children study the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.

How you can help: The 'Romanisation' of Britain took many forms, and can still be witnessed today through place names and Roman forts.

5 From age seven, children should carry out a detailed study of their local area.

How you can help: Explore your local area and identify different aspects of its history.

What parents need to know about other subjects

Languages

All children will learn a modern or ancient language (for example, Latin or Greek) from age seven.

Children will converse, present, read and write in a second language.

Computing

The computing curriculum emphasises programming rather than using programs.

Internet safety is taught in primary school.

Geography

There's emphasis on geographical facts, including locating countries and cities on a map.

The curriculum includes both physical geography (rivers, mountains, the water cycle) and human geography (types of settlements, economic activity and trade).

Design and Technology

The curriculum focuses on designing, making and evaluating.

Five-year-olds will use mechanisms in their design projects, and from age seven children will use simple electrical circuits.

Children will prepare food, with an emphasis on healthy eating.