

Beginning to plan for the Australian Curriculum v9.0

Meeting 1 guide: For use with the school leadership team

January 2025

This resource is designed for a school leader to deliver to other school leaders. It supports them to communicate key messages to their senior and middle leadership teams before sharing with teaching staff a rationale for changes to the Australian Curriculum. The resource draws on learnings from the QCAA school leaders forums held during Semester 2, 2022.

This resource can facilitate some preliminary strategising with the school leadership team before key messages are presented to the whole staff.



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Meeting 1 guide

Beginning to plan for the Australian Curriculum v9.0

Before investing time in professional learning and training for your staff, leaders may wish to meet with their leadership team to share key messages about the Australian Curriculum v9.0 (AC v9.0) and consider strategic implications for planning and implementations.

This meeting guide is designed to support you to lead and facilitate the first steps into the familiarisation phase of implementation with other leaders in your school.

Purpose

- To activate prior knowledge and develop a shared understanding of why the Australian Curriculum has been refreshed to Version 9.0.
- To share key timelines and support available from the QCAA.
- To prompt strategic thinking and develop a shared understanding of what Version 9.0 offers your school.

Meeting 1 provides school leaders with the resources to undertake preliminary strategic planning before presenting to teachers (meeting 2).

Audience

School leadership team, including:

- principal/headmaster
- deputy principals/deans/assistant principals
- directors/heads of teaching and learning
- department heads
- curriculum leaders.

Time required

90 minutes

Facilitator preparation

Preview the slideshow presentation and this meeting guide.

The slideshow:

- provides a resource and suggested format for introducing senior and middle leaders to the need for the Australian Curriculum v9.0. Preview in presentation mode. (Press F5 in the open presentation.)
- has supporting notes and instructional text to provide guidance
- while designed to be meeting ready, allows you to adapt, add or delete activities and slides to align with the needs of your school
- provides space for you to add key messages for your community, your next steps and whole school planning/approach, if required.

Resources included

- Meeting 1 guide — presenter notes
- Meeting 1 slideshow with detailed talking points — hide or delete slide 1 before presenting
- Pair–share–gather grids (x2):
 - Pair–share–gather grid — our school
 - Pair–share–gather grid — building on our foundations
- KWL wall chart posters — there is one poster for each element of the KWL:
 - K: What do we know?
 - W: What do we want to know?
 - L: What have we learnt?
- school implementation roadmap template — adapt this to suit your specific requirements.

Materials required

- Sticky notes
- A3 copies of KWL wall chart posters — stick these to an appropriate wall/whiteboard/bulletin board before the session starts
- A4 or A3 copies of pair–share–gather grids — enough for leaders to work individually or in small groups, as preferred.

Procedure

Slide	Action	Indicative timing
1	(For presenter information only)	n/a
2	Introduce session based on title slide.	15 minutes
3	Follow your school's protocols for Acknowledgment of Country. You may wish to customise this slide for your school's location.	
4	Introduce the learning goals of the session. Reinforce that the meeting's purpose is for the leadership team to understand why the Australian Curriculum has changed and to prepare for leading teachers and the school community through the curriculum refresh.	
5–7	Show and talk to slide 5. On slide 6, encourage leaders to be aware of their own attitudes and perceptions to the change. On slide 7, encourage leaders to think about their own response to change and consider what teachers will require to move forward. Ask the leadership team to consider how to lead change through the familiarisation and planning phases to successful implementation.	
8	Activity: Leaders work individually or in small groups to reflect on the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is important to us and our school community? How do we currently meet the needs of our students and the school community that we wish to retain in the change process? Leaders share their thoughts and complete the pair–share–gather grid — our strengths.	
9	Read from the slide to share the outline of the meeting.	10 minutes
10	Ask leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what they already know about the AC v9.0 what they would like to know. Individually, leaders write on sticky notes. Using the K and W posters, leaders place their responses under the relevant heading. (The L poster will be returned to in slide 40.)	
11–13	Introduce Section 1. Share information about the development of the Australian Curriculum, highlighting the passage of time since the release of the initial version of the curriculum and v8.4.	
14	Working with an elbow partner, and then with the whole group, leaders discuss the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the changes we have seen in the world since 2011? Why do you think a contemporary curriculum is essential for our students' future? Plan a few examples of your own to share as prompts for thinking. Optional questions to prompt reflection could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have the ways we communicate changed? What challenges will students face from 2024 and beyond? What would you like to improve for students? Ask individuals to share.	

Slide	Action	Indicative timing
	A volunteer could record the responses for reference in your review stage, e.g. on a whiteboard and take a photo of the completed responses or on poster paper.	
15	With reference to the Mparntwe (pronounced M-ban-tua), Alice Springs, Declaration, emphasise the national vision for a world-class education system and the agreed goals of education in Australia.	10 minutes
16	Individually, leaders consider the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does world-class curriculum and assessment mean to you in our school context? In pairs, leaders negotiate a shared understanding. Share and discuss ideas as a whole group.	
17	Share ACARA's aims for the Australian Curriculum v9.0. Note: ACARA is the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.	
18	Explain that the three-dimensional structure of the Australian Curriculum is largely unchanged.	15 minutes
19	Introduce Section 2: What are the timelines for change?	
20	Share the QCAA Memo 043/23 to schools.	
21–22	Show and discuss the Prep–Year 6 QCAA professional development and support schedule . Note for secondary schools: This slide might prompt the need for discussion with feeder primary schools about their plans.	
23	Show and discuss the Years 7–10 QCAA professional development and support schedule . Note for primary schools: This slide might prompt the need for discussion with the secondary schools they feed into about their plans.	
24	Outline the three broad phases for the QCAA's provision of support and professional learning. This slide can be used to prompt leaders to consider possible phases for implementation of the Australian Curriculum v9.0 in your specific school context. Note: Adjust this slide to reflect your school or sector's approach to implementation, if necessary.	
25	Introduce Section 3: What supports are in place for teachers?	
26–33	Share information about the support available for the familiarisation phase. Emphasise that ACARA develops the Australian Curriculum, and the QCAA supports schools in all Queensland sectors with advice, resources and professional learning. Show a few examples of the resources available to build confidence for a successful familiarisation phase in your school. As an optional activity, leaders could be taken on a virtual tour of the QCAA webpages for v9.0.	
34–35	In pairs or small groups, leaders discuss and record on the pair–share–gather grid — building on our foundations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What improvement opportunities does the Australian Curriculum v9.0 offer our school? 	10 minutes

Slide	Action	Indicative timing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What considerations might there be for professional development, resourcing and staffing? <p>After sufficient time for thinking and discussion, share ideas with the whole group.</p> <p>Note: Collect the pair–share–gather grids now or at the end of the session.</p>	
36	Introduce Section 4: What are the next steps?	10 minutes
37–38	<p>Explain that this session has been a preliminary discussion/preparation before presenting to the broader teaching staff.</p> <p>At slide 37, return to ideas discussed on slides 5–8: the need to be aware of our own personal responses to v9.0 so we might present a united and positive approach to change.</p> <p>Referring to slide 38, encourage leaders to work in pairs/small groups to develop a 30-second elevator pitch for the changes to the curriculum. Provide examples, using the pitch developed at the Forum for school leaders or the examples of a pitch in the presenter's notes of slide 36. Pairs/small groups could revise, refine or build on one of the examples or create a new pitch.</p> <p>Share several pitches with the whole group, as time allows.</p> <p>Discuss how these might be used, e.g. with teachers, parents and students.</p>	
39–40	Recap the topics in this meeting and the goals of the session.	15 minutes
41	<p>Before finishing this meeting, start to consider what an implantation schedule might look like in your school's context — a possible template for the school's implementation roadmap is included in the leaders' pack and could be shown and discussed at this time.</p> <p>As a lead-in to more detailed work developing this plan, leaders reflect individually on what implementation might look like in their school's context, e.g. sequence of rollout, timing for professional development and how the rollout might be managed (e.g. lead teachers appointed; strategic committee established), considerations for resourcing, staffing, students and their families.</p> <p>Write these ideas on sticky notes and post under 'L: What have we learnt?' on the KWL wall chart.</p> <p>After sufficient time, discuss the ideas raised and identify key points/considerations.</p> <p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When introducing this activity, you could remind leaders about the school's strategic priorities and/or specific sector advice. If time is available, this activity could be extended. Alternatively, dedicated time could be set aside at a follow-up leadership meeting to consider and elaborate on these ideas. 	(See the note for Slide 40.)
42	<p>Before finishing, clarify what the next steps will be — see slide for possibilities, but modify this to suit your school context and needs.</p> <p>A possible template for a school implementation roadmap is included in the leaders' pack. Adapt this to suit your needs or develop your own.</p>	
43	<p>Thank leaders for their participation.</p> <p>Before leaving the room, ensure someone is responsible for collecting the various resources (e.g. completed grids, KWL and other feedback notes) and for collating the ideas of the group.</p>	

Table 1: Links to QCAA support documents

QCAA support document	Description	Recommended audience
Australian Curriculum Version 9.0 in Queensland QCAA	Provides access to advice, resources and professional development designed to support implementation of the Australian Curriculum v9.0.	School leaders, curriculum leaders, coordinators and teachers
QCAA Memo 043/23: Australian Curriculum Version 9.0: Revised implementation schedules, professional learning and resources	Advises schools of the updated schedules for the P–10 Australian Curriculum v9.0, which will inform the development and delivery of QCAA resources and a professional learning program.	School leaders
Prep–Year 6 professional development and implementation schedule	Outlines the schedule of the QCAA professional development and support for the phased implementation of the Australian Curriculum learning areas.	School leaders, curriculum leaders, coordinators and teachers
Years 7–10 professional development and implementation schedule	Outlines the schedule of the QCAA professional development and support for the phased implementation of the Australian Curriculum learning areas.	School leaders, curriculum leaders, coordinators and teachers
Go to QCAA's Version 9.0 Learning area webpages for:		
• Snapshot of changes	Supports familiarisation by providing a high-level summary.	School leaders, curriculum leaders and coordinators
• Summary of changes	Supports familiarisation by providing a high-level summary of changes, including information about movement of content or skills.	School leaders, curriculum leaders and coordinators
• Comparison of AC v8.4 to v9.0 — each year level for each learning area	Provides detailed information about changes within each year level/band. Using colour coding, these resources illustrate what has been removed, moved and deleted. These resources can assist with the auditing of existing planning that was used for Version 8.4, and highlight what consideration will be required to transition to Version 9.0.	Curriculum leaders, coordinators and teachers
• Learning area overview presentation	Provides a self-paced presentation about the structure and content of each learning area.	Teachers
• Learning area overview poster	Provides high-level information about the structure of each learning area on an A3 poster.	School leaders, curriculum leaders and teachers