

Somerford Primary School

Curriculum 2015 – A Guide for Parents

The Curriculum at Somerford Primary School

The National Curriculum in England has been in a process of change and revision for a while. During 2014 and 2015, the requirements to teach programmes of study from the existing national curriculum were replaced and new programmes of study and attainment targets replaced the previous national curriculum.

Why the Curriculum Change?

The main aim from the Department of Education is to raise standards. Although the new curriculum will be more challenging, the content is reducing in order to focus on essential core knowledge and skills, and to give children more opportunities to deepen their knowledge of big ideas.

The Main Changes

The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects.

Subject	What's new?
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling, for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1.• Handwriting is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy.• Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children being taught to debate.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 and learn number bonds to 20.• Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1 and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions e.g. $0.375 = 3/8$.• By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12.• Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms.• Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time.• Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics such as the human circulatory system.
Design & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and Technology has become more important in the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming designers and engineers of the future with far more focus on cooking skills too.• More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics.• In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in

	design and technology have shaped the world.
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus of programming rather than on operating systems. • From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise and store and retrieve data. • From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet. • Internet safety, currently only taught from 11-16, will be taught in primary schools.
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) will be mandatory in KS2. Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language.