

This document must be read as part of the
Revised National Curriculum Statement for Grades R-9 (Schools).

This National Curriculum Statement includes:

1. An Overview
2. Eight Learning Area Statements

EMBARGOED



Revised National Curriculum Statement Grades R-9 (Schools)



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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The development of a national curriculum is a major challenge for any nation. At its broadest level, our education system and its curriculum express our idea of ourselves as a society and our vision as to how we see the new form of society being realised through our children and learners. Through its selection of what is to be in the curriculum, it represents our priorities and assumptions of what constitutes a 'good education' at its deepest level.

This curriculum is written by South Africans for South Africans who hold dear the principles and practices of democracy. It encapsulates our vision of teachers and learners who are knowledgeable and multi-faceted, sensitive to environmental issues and able to respond to and act upon the many challenges that will still confront South Africa in this twenty first century.

But we must also be realistic about what a curriculum can and cannot achieve. Inequality and poverty still plague the educational experience of too many families and their children. The curriculum is and will be differently interpreted and enacted in diverse contexts. We will improve and implement it to the best of our ability. We will also make the most strenuous efforts to enable the realisation of its vision through addressing all those issues which make up teaching and learning.

This requires the commitment and participation of all who work in education. We need the full cooperation of the Government, parents, teachers, learners and the community at large. I trust this Revised National Curriculum Statement will embody the ideals which will promote such cooperation.



PROFESSOR KADER ASMAL, MP
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

At its special meeting of 12 September 1997, the Heads of Education Departments Committee recommended the Draft Statement of the National Curriculum for Grades R-9 for Ministerial approval. It was referred to and approved by the Council of Education Ministers at its meeting of 29 September 1997 as three separate policy documents for the Foundation Phase, the Intermediate Phase and the Senior Phase.

At its meeting in June 2000, the Council of Education Ministers agreed that the Statement of the National Curriculum for Grades R-9 should be revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Review Committee (31 May 2000) to streamline and strengthen Curriculum 2005.

A Ministerial Project Committee to Streamline and Strengthen Curriculum 2005 was subsequently established for the task. The process of revision was begun in January 2001 with approximately 150 curriculum developers drawn from the educational community. On 30 July 2001, the Draft Revised National Curriculum Statement for Grades R-9 (Schools) was released for public comment for a period of three months. In November, public hearings were held on the curriculum. Once the public comment and contributions at the public hearings were received and analysed, the curriculum working groups of the Ministerial Project Committee were reconvened in December 2001 to incorporate suggested changes for improvement. The revised National Curriculum Statement is the result of that process.

This document and the eight Learning Area Statements published as Addenda constitute the Revised National Curriculum Statement Grades R-9 (Schools). The Revised National Curriculum Statement Grades R-9 (Schools) will replace the Statement of the National Curriculum for Grades R-9 approved in 1997 once it is introduced into the system.

A comprehensive and participatory implementation strategy and plan will be developed with all relevant social partners to ensure the successful introduction of the Revised National Curriculum Statement Grade R-9 (Schools).

The current Assessment Policy of 23 December 1998 (Government Gazette No 19640) and the Language-in-Education Policy of 14 July 1997 (Government Gazette No 17997) need to be read in conjunction with the Revised National Curriculum Statement Grades R-9 (Schools). The Assessment Policy also needs

to be read alongside the relevant section of each Learning Area Statement. Until 2008, the policy currently related to certification will prevail. Thereafter the General Education and Training Certificate aligned to this Revised National Curriculum Statement will come into force. The General Education and Training Certificate for compulsory schooling is a whole qualification for schools based on the extent to which the learning outcomes are achieved through the Grade 9 assessment standards.



DIRECTOR-GENERAL
THAMI MSELEKU