

# Curriculum 2028 Implementation and next steps

September 2026

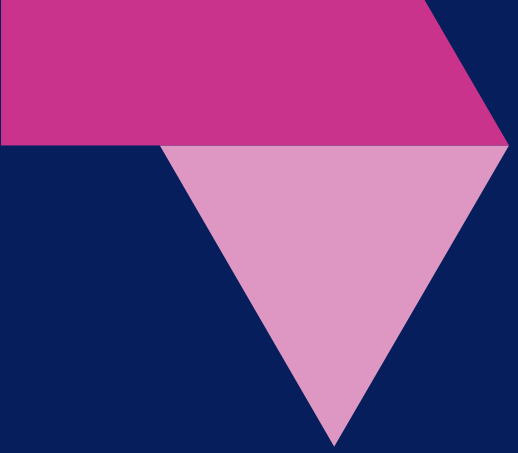
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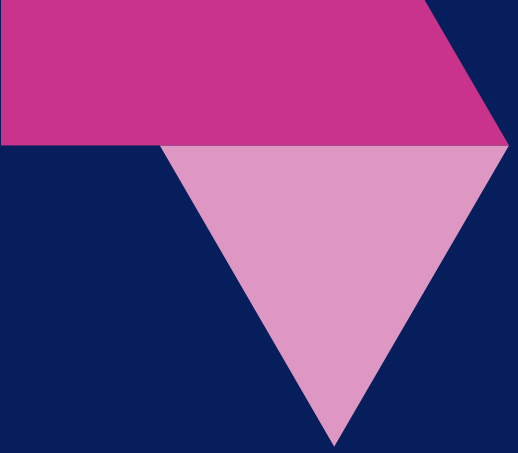


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# How implementation will be approached

- **Implementation will be gradual and carefully structured.**
- **Suite of guidance materials and supporting documentation to aid school planning.**
- **Professional learning will sit at the centre of the implementation process.**



# How implementation will be approached

- Investment in curriculum-aligned resources.
- System coherence is critically important – assessment, qualifications.
- Implementation Plan in November

**HOW BEST CAN WE HELP SCHOOLS PLAN AND PREPARE?**

# Further workstreams and future development

- **Religious education syllabus.**
- **Special Schools curriculum.**
- **Irish-medium education frameworks.**
- **Early years alignment.**
- **Post-16 and Key Stage 4 considerations.**

# Implementation

SEPT - JUNE 2028

**Preparation and capacity-building**

SEPT 2028  
ONWARDS

**Three-year phased statutory roll-out**

SEPT 2031  
ONWARDS

**Embedding, review and ongoing support**



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# 7 point plan for curriculum implementation

1. Curriculum guidance on pedagogy, adaptation, planning and sequencing.
2. Literacy and numeracy interventions and funding.
3. Universal TPL and subject-specific training.
4. Exemplar resources to guide school delivery.
5. Digital platform and AI licensing.
6. Early adoption, piloting and testing.
7. Subject communities and curriculum hubs.



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# System guidance materials

## Pedagogical principles

- Support teachers to make effective decisions on how the curriculum is taught
- Establish common language regarding *knowledge, schema, working memory, retrieval, consolidation*
- Avoiding genericism – stage-specific and subject-sensitive

## Adaptations

- Supporting access to a common curriculum entitlement
- Providing practical principles for evidence-informed adaptation

## Planning, sequencing and transition

- Whole school curriculum planning guide (reviewing, structuring and timetabling)
- Sequencing and progression guide

# Literacy and Numeracy

## Literacy and numeracy support

- New literacy framework – evidence informed approach to literacy.
- Supported with webinars on science of reading, oracy, whole class guided reading, spelling etc
- Guidance on effective phonics provision to be issued.
- New numeracy framework to be published in November.

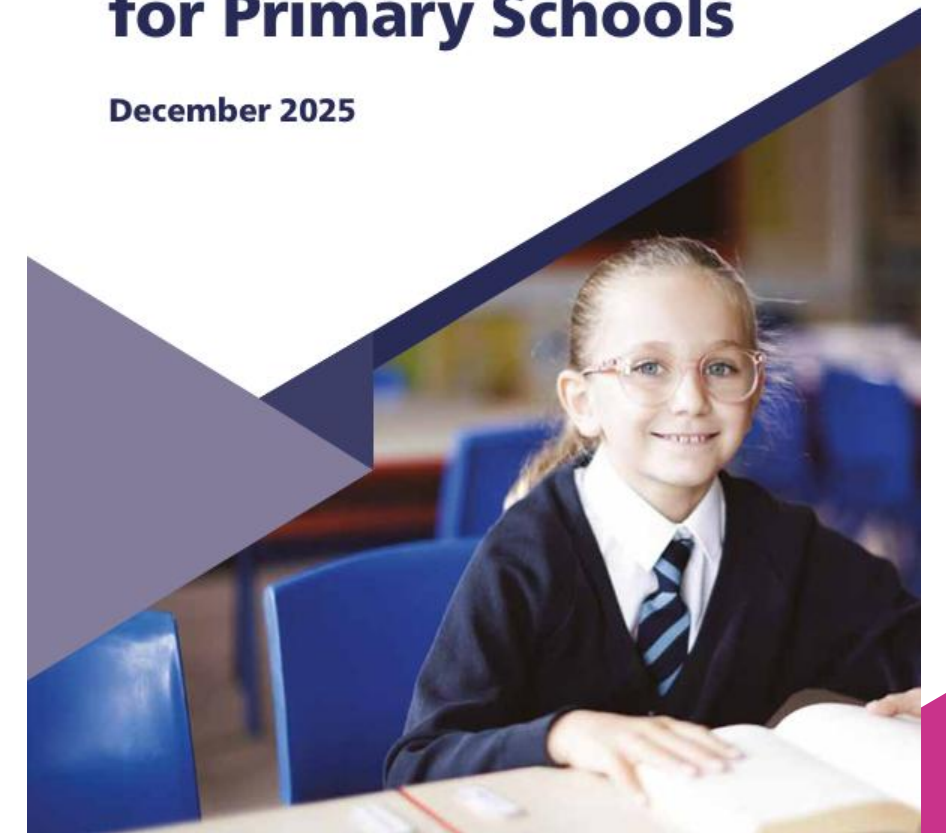
Need for strategic investment in literacy and numeracy at FS and KS3.



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**Strong Foundations:  
A Literacy Framework  
for Primary Schools**

December 2025



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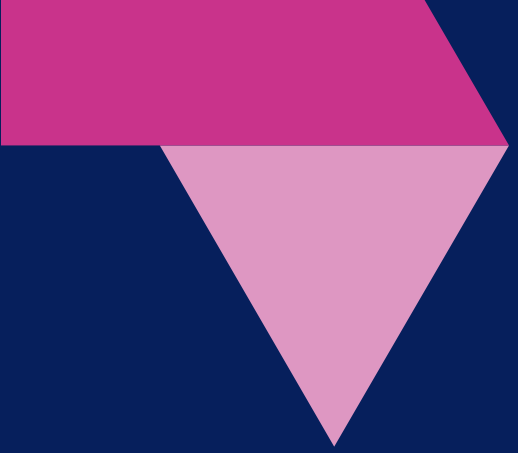


# Teacher Professional Learning

**Curriculum leadership programmes** for senior leaders and subject leaders, focused on curriculum design, implementation planning, sequencing and leading change within schools.

**Universal training on Curriculum 2028** including pedagogical principles, curriculum planning and sequencing.

**Subject-specific professional learning** to strengthen subject knowledge, progression, curriculum content and subject-specific pedagogy.



# Teacher Professional Learning

**Practical implementation support** enabling teachers to work directly with curriculum maps, exemplification materials, resources and implementation guidance rather than learning about reform in the abstract.

**Ongoing support through subject communities, hubs and networks** allowing teachers to collaborate, share practice, access expertise and continue developing their curriculum understanding over time.

# Resource development

**Accessible curriculum aligned resources developed with professional input, tested and refined before statutory roll-out**



## Curriculum-aligned resources

Practical, optional materials to support classroom implementation

- Curriculum maps and progression frameworks
- Curriculum overviews
- Schemes of work
- Lesson materials and exemplification



## Digital platform

Single accessible location for all curriculum materials, guidance, resources and TPL

- Accessible curriculum materials
- Subject community spaces
- Sharing best practice
- AI enabled support



## Piloting and early adoption

Testing approaches and building readiness before wider implementation

- Early adoption where schools are ready
- Resources are used in practice
- Feedback informs refinement
- Learning supports wider roll-out

**September 2028**

First year of  
phased curriculum  
implementation  
begins.



**September 2029**



Second year of  
phased curriculum  
implementation  
begins.



First year of teaching  
of new GCSE  
specifications.

**March 2030**

First new Year 4  
Key Stage  
assessments in  
literacy and  
numeracy.



**September 2030**



Third year of phased  
curriculum  
implementation  
begins.



First year of teaching  
of new A Level  
specifications.

**March 2031**

First new Year 7  
and 10 Key Stage  
assessments in  
literacy,  
numeracy and  
science.



**Jun–Aug 2031**



First awarding of  
new GCSE  
specifications.

**Jun–Aug 2032**

First award of new  
A-Level  
qualifications.



# IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP



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# What can schools do now?

## Build awareness

- Engage with the draft frameworks
- Respond to the consultation
- Discuss implications with staff

## Reflect on current position

- Consider strengths and gaps in current provision
- Review curriculum coherence and progression
- Identify areas already aligned with the proposals

## Develop curriculum leadership

- Create opportunities for professional dialogue
- Encourage subject and phase-level reflection
- Build shared understanding of the proposed changes

## Engage with professional learning

- Take part in engagement events or watch online
- Access the support materials
- Begin exploring key concepts and approaches

## Stay connected

- Follow implementation updates
- Advise us on effective implementation
- Consider early adoption or hub implementation

**Prepare,  
don't panic**



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# Summary

- **Curriculum implementation will be gradual, phased and carefully supported.**
- **Further workstreams will continue to develop the curriculum and supporting guidance.**
- **Professional learning will be central to building confidence and capacity across the system.**

# Summary

- **Curriculum-aligned resources, subject communities and piloting will support implementation in practice.**
- **Schools will be supported through connected programmes, practical guidance and a digital platform.**
- **The years ahead provide an opportunity to build understanding, readiness and confidence for implementation.**



**Implementation is a journey,  
and we will work alongside  
schools to build understanding,  
confidence and readiness every  
step of the way.**



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TransformED is the Department of Education's major education reform programme to transform teaching and learning in Northern Ireland. It focuses on the core areas of curriculum, assessment, qualifications, school improvement and tackling educational disadvantage. Reform in each of these areas will be underpinned by significant investment in high-quality teacher professional development.



#### About TransformED

Find out about how TransformED is focused on high-quality teaching, learning and whole-school improvement.



#### Curriculum

Discover the work that is taking place to review and strengthen the Northern Ireland Curriculum.



#### Literacy

Learn more about how every learner can develop confident reading, writing and communication skills.



#### Teacher Professional Learning

Discover more about teacher professional learning opportunities designed to develop practice, build leadership skills and empower educators at every career stage.



#### Qualifications

Up-to-date guidance on qualification pathways and information on proposed changes to qualifications.



#### Assessment

Find out about current arrangements for Key Stage assessment as well as the Independent Review of Assessment.



#### Resources

Access a growing library of resources, videos and materials created to support effective teaching and school development.



#### Tackling Educational Disadvantage

Find out more about initiatives designed to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their



#### School Improvement

Learn more about the Department's policies on school improvement and the range of support available to schools. We will see details of the

# TransformED Hub

A central space for updates, resources, guidance and opportunities related to TransformED.

[www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/transformed](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/transformed)



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# Questions

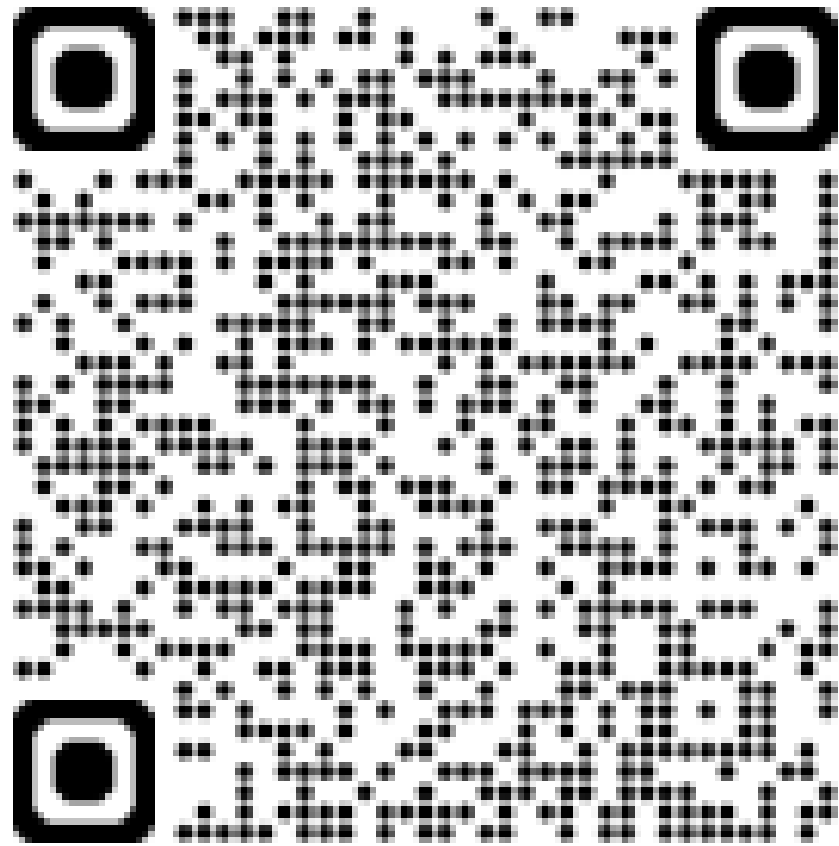
**What guidance materials and supporting documentation would you wish to have in advance of roll-out?**

**What TPL is needed and how should that be rolled out?**

**How should implementation be phased and staged?**



# Helpful links



Consultation information, documents and link to survey.



Citizen space consultation survey.



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# Questions and discussion



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