

## Doing Dialogue

To design a participative process for a consortium of UK science centres aimed at young people aged between 14-19 years old to feed into a national public consultation.

### Section B: Case Definition

#### No. 4: Understanding the English National Curriculum

The National Curriculum sets out the stages and core subjects your child will be taught during their time at school. Children aged five to 16 in "maintained" or state schools must be taught the National Curriculum.

##### The National Curriculum - what it sets out

The National Curriculum is a framework used by all maintained schools to ensure that teaching and learning is balanced and consistent.

It sets out:

- the subjects taught
- the knowledge, skills and understanding required in each subject
- standards or attainment targets in each subject - teachers can use these to measure your child's progress and plan the next steps in their learning
- how your child's progress is assessed and reported

Within the framework of the National Curriculum, schools are free to plan and organise teaching and learning in the way that best meets the needs of their pupils.

Many schools use the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Schemes of Work to plan their curriculum. These help to translate the National Curriculum's objectives into teaching and learning activities.

The National Curriculum is organised into blocks of years called 'key stages'.

There are four key stages as well as a 'Foundation Stage'. The 'Foundation Stage' covers education for children before they reach five (compulsory school age).

Age	Stage	Year	Tests
5-6	Key Stage 1	Year 1	
6-7		Year 2	National tests and tasks in English and maths
7-8	Key Stage 2	Year 3	
8-9		Year 4	
9-10		Year 5	
10-11		Year 6	National tests in English, maths and science
11-12	Key Stage 3	Year 7	
12-13		Year 8	
13-14		Year 9	National tests in English, maths and science
14-15	Key Stage 4	Year 10	Some children take GCSEs*
15-16		Year 11	Most children take GCSEs or other national qualifications

\* GCSEs

General Certificate for Secondary Education (GCSE) courses generally last two years.