

Schools, parents, learners, LEAs, subject communities, professional associations

# QCA starts key stage 3 review



## QCA is reviewing what pupils learn at key stage 3

The government asked QCA to carry out the review as a result of the White Paper *14–19 Education and Skills* (February 2005).

### Aims of the review

The aims of the review are:

- to ensure that the key stage 3 curriculum is less prescriptive
- to ensure that schools have the flexibility they need to better meet pupils' needs, stretching the more able and helping those who fall behind expected standards to catch up
- to ensure a smooth transition from primary school and provide a firm foundation for education after age 14
- to advise on the structures, resources

and materials needed to improve teachers' assessment of the key stage 3 foundation subjects.

The revised curriculum will help to deliver the Every Child Matters aims enshrined in the Children Act that children should be given the opportunity to: enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, stay safe, maintain healthy lifestyles and achieve economic well-being.

### What the review will cover

We will review:

- the aims, purposes and values of the key stage 3 curriculum
- the content of the core and foundation subjects

- the relationship between citizenship and PSHE (building on work done at key stage 4)
- the implications of changes at key stage 4 on key stage 3
- the implications of teacher assessment in foundation subjects.

We will not remove any of the core or foundation subjects or review the primary curriculum.

Throughout the review we will consult stakeholders such as teacher organisations, academics, pupils and parents through meetings, seminars, events, questionnaires, trialling and web-based communications.

Timeline	
September – December 2005	QCA will talk to stakeholders about how the curriculum should develop and teacher assessment be improved
January 2006 – May 2007	Consult further and widely with stakeholders as we develop the new curriculum, revise the programmes of study and consider assessment requirements
Summer 2007	Provide advice to the Secretary of State for Education on the proposed key stage 3 curriculum and assessment changes
Autumn 2007	Schools receive new key stage 3 curriculum and guidance on changes
September 2008	Start of phased implementation of new key stage 3 curriculum

### Contact information

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority  
83 Piccadilly  
London W1J 8QA

Telephone 020 7509 5555  
Minicom 020 7509 6546  
Email [info@qca.org.uk](mailto:info@qca.org.uk)  
[www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)

### Further information

You can email the key stage 3 review team at [ks3review@qca.org.uk](mailto:ks3review@qca.org.uk) or telephone the QCA enquiry line on 020 7509 5556.