



Department  
for Education

**Launch date 3 May 2013**  
**Respond by 3 June 2013**  
**Ref: Department for Education**

**Consultation on (i) the Order for replacing  
ICT with computing and (ii) the regulations  
for disapplying aspects of the existing  
National Curriculum**

# **Consultation on (i) the Order for replacing ICT with computing and (ii) the regulations for disapplying aspects of the existing National Curriculum**

On 7 February 2013 the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, launched a public consultation on the Government's proposal for the reform of the national curriculum. The consultation closed on 16 April 2013 and included the following proposals:

- to replace the foundation subject of ICT with computing at all four key stages
- to disapply certain aspects of the existing national curriculum for a limited period from September 2013.

Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation, as well as a range of other relevant factors, the Government has confirmed that it plans to:

- replace ICT with computing at all four key stages
- disapply the existing programmes of study, attainment targets and statutory assessment arrangements from September 2013 for:
  - English, mathematics and science for pupils in years 3 and 4
  - all foundation subjects for all pupils at key stages 1 and 2
  - all subjects for pupils at key stages 3 and 4.

Disapplication will have effect for the school year 2013/14, except in relation to English, mathematics and science for pupils at key stage 4 where it will have effect for the two years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Decisions on all other issues covered by the consultation will be announced later in the year.

## Purpose of this consultation

The Government is undertaking a single consultation which seeks representations on the draft Order and draft regulations required to bring these changes into effect. The consultation is conducted under section 96 of the Education Act 2002.

**To** Primary, Secondary & Special Schools, Academies/Free Schools, Subject Associations, Governing Bodies, Parents, Young People, Higher Education, Employers/Business sector, LAs, Organisations Representing School Children or Teachers

**Issued** 3 May 2013

**Enquiries To** If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: [NationalCurriculum.statutory@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NationalCurriculum.statutory@education.gsi.gov.uk)

## Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: [consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's '[Contact Us](#)' page.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 On 7 February 2013 the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, launched a public consultation on the proposed new national curriculum. This included proposals to replace the national curriculum subject currently known as information and communication technology (ICT) with computing, and to disapply certain aspects of the existing national curriculum for a limited period from September 2013. This consultation closed on 16 April 2013.

- 1.2 The Department gave notice of the proposal to associations of local authorities, bodies representing the interests of schools' governing bodies, and to organisations representing school teachers.
- 1.3 Notice was also given to organisations connected with ICT and computing and to others via publication of the proposals on the Department's website.

## **2 Changing the subject name of ICT to computing**

- 2.1 A summary of the responses on the proposed change of subject name has been published on the Department's website at [www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations)
- 2.2 There were 2,855 responses in total to the question on proposal to replace ICT with computing. 1,126 (39%) agreed with the proposal, 985 (35%) were against and 744 (26%) were unsure.

## **3 Proposal**

- 3.1 Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation, the Government has decided to proceed with replacing the national curriculum subject of ICT with computing under section 84 and 85 of the Education Act 2002. It is envisaged that the new subject title will reflect appropriately the content included in the revised programmes of study for the subject which are more ambitious and rigorous than the existing (and now disapplied) programmes of study for ICT, and place much greater emphasis on teaching the principles of computational thinking and practical programming skills. Changing the subject name to computing is in keeping with the views of the largest group of respondents to the consultation and of key organisations such as the Royal Society, BCS – The Chartered Institute for IT, Microsoft and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

- 3.2** It would appear that a significant proportion of the respondents who disagreed or were unconvinced of the merit of the change in subject name were influenced by concerns that the draft programmes of study focused too much on programming and not enough on basic ICT/digital literacy skills; that some schools may need to recruit specialist teachers to teach the new computing curriculum effectively; and that there may be resource issues such as funding needed for teacher training and continuing professional development and for the purchase of relevant hardware or software needs. These issues will be considered separately as part of our ongoing consideration of the draft programmes of study and our implementation plans.
- 3.3** Under the legislation which governs the national curriculum, the Secretary of State is required to consult on a draft of the Order necessary to effect these changes. This consultation is conducted under Section 96 of the Education Act 2002.
- 3.4** The draft Order which will be used to amend the legislation can be found at **Annex A**.

***Question 1:***

***Do you have any comments on the draft Order at Annex A?***

## **4 Disapplication of certain aspects of the existing national curriculum for a limited period from September 2013**

- 4.1** A summary of the responses on the Government's proposal for disapplication has been published on the Department's website at:  
[www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations)
- 4.2** There were 2,627 responses in total to the question on the proposal to disapply certain aspects of the existing national curriculum. 614 (23%) agreed with proposal, 1,108 (43%) were against and 905 (34%) were unsure.

## 5 Proposal

**5.1** Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation, the Government has decided to proceed with disapplying the programmes of study, attainment targets and statutory assessment arrangements from September 2013 for:

- English, mathematics and science for pupils in years 3 and 4
- all foundation subjects for pupils at key stages 1 and 2
- all subjects for pupils at key stage 3 and key stage 4.

**5.2** Disapplication will have effect for the school year 2013/14, except in relation to English, mathematics and science for pupils at key stage 4 where it will have effect for the two years 2013/14 and 2014/15, because the new key stage 4 programmes of study for these subjects will not be introduced until September 2015. The reason why disapplication will not apply to English, mathematics and science for pupils in years 1, 2, 5 and 6 is to retain the statutory underpinning for statutory assessment at the end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 for those cohorts of pupils in summer 2014 and 2015, ahead of new assessment arrangements being put in place for summer 2016.

**5.3** The intended effect of disapplication is to free schools up to adapt their curricula during the transitional period before the new national curriculum is introduced, should they wish to do so. This might, for example, involve early adoption of some aspects of the new national curriculum, or it might involve an adaptation to the school's existing curriculum in order to ensure that any important gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding are filled before they begin to be taught the new programmes of study. It does not mean that schools will be free to drop the teaching of national curriculum subjects altogether: it will remain compulsory for maintained schools to teach all the core and foundation subjects at the same key stages as now. Schools will not be obliged to make changes to their existing curricula if they do not consider it necessary to do so.

- 5.4** Whilst the responses to the consultation showed higher numbers of respondents either unsure or disagreeing with the proposals to disapply elements of the current national curriculum than were in favour, the comments received via the consultation indicate that there was uncertainty as to what disapplication would actually mean for schools, and this may have contributed to these higher figures. It is also notable that in contrast with other consultation questions, a very small percentage of respondents went on to provide a rationale for their answer. Of those that did, the majority took the opportunity to express their views about the timescales involved in the introduction of the new curriculum, rather than the issue of disapplication itself. Given that a proportion of respondents did consider that disapplication would be useful to schools in preparing to teach the new curriculum and that the proposed change is permissive rather than prescriptive, the Government considers that it is right to go ahead with the proposals as originally set out.
- 5.5** Under the legislation which governs the national curriculum, the Secretary of State is required to consult on a draft of the regulations necessary to effect these changes. This consultation is conducted under Section 96 of the Education Act 2002.
- 5.6** The draft regulations which will be used to amend the legislation can be found at **Annex B**.

***Question 2:***

***Do you have any comments on the draft regulations at Annex B?***

## **6 How To Respond**

- 6.1** Consultation responses can be completed online at [www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations), by emailing [NationalCurriculum.statutory@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NationalCurriculum.statutory@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

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Department for Education  
National Curriculum Review Division  
Level 2 Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

## **7 Additional Copies**

- 7.1** Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at:  
[www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations)

## **8 Plans for making results public**

- 8.1** The results of the consultation and the department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in the summer.