

Changes to the New Zealand Curriculum

The New Zealand Curriculum is being refreshed to make learning clearer and more connected as children move through school.

Instead of 'levels,' the curriculum will now be in use 'phases of learning.' These phases group years of schooling together to show the progress students typically make over time.

This change helps teachers, parents, and whanau to better understand what students are learning, when they're learning it, and how their learning builds from one phase to the next. It is designed to support every child's learning journey in a more consistent and easy-to-follow way.



In a Nutshell:

2025 Progress Reports (Mid-Year and End of Year)

- Your child's progress in reading, writing and maths will be reported as a curriculum level
- Mid-Term reports will be sent out beginning of Term 3 followed by learning conversations with your child's teacher
- Written end of year reports will be sent out at the end of Term 4

2026 Progress Reports (Mid-Year and End of Year)

- Your child's progress in mathematics, reading, and writing will be reported as a curriculum **phase**

So, why the change?

We are moving from curriculum **levels** to curriculum **phases**

Curriculum Levels

Curriculum levels are steps on a learning ladder. Each level shows the kinds of skills and knowledge a child is expected to learn at that stage. There are 8 levels in total

Curriculum Phases

Curriculum phases are bigger chunks of learning that group several curriculum levels together. They help plan and track learning over time in a boarder, more flexible way.

- There are 5 curriculum phases
- Each phase covers several years and levels
- Phases support a more connected and long-term view of a student's learning journey



Thornton School

Changes to Curriculum and Reporting

2025-2026

What to expect from the Ministry of Education 2025-2027

2025: Initial Implementation

From Term 1, schools began teaching the updated English curriculum for Years 0-6 and the refreshed Mathematics and Statistics curriculum for Years 0-8

2026: Expansion to Higher Year Levels

At the start of Term 1, the updated English curriculum will extend to Years 7-13, and the Mathematics and Statistics curriculum will cover Years 9-13

2027: Full Curriculum Implementation

By the beginning of 2027, all learning areas including Science, Technology, Health and Physical Education, Learning Languages, The Arts and Social Sciences - will be fully implemented across all year levels



What you will see Thornton School doing in 2025

Numeracy

Implementation of the new Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum, includes:

- Professional Development for teachers in the design and use of the Mathematics and Statistics phases, planning and assessments
- Implementation of Maths No Problem programme and use of resources
- Ongoing assessment - Track children's progress through assessment opportunities built into Maths No Problem programme
- Reporting to parents: Mathematics - Curriculum level up to Level 5+ (Years 0-8)

Literacy

- Our junior (Year 0-4) classes are using Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) to support structured literacy
- Structured spelling has been implemented into our Year 5-8 classes with support from Clarity Education
- Continued use of Writer's Toolbox to support writing across the school
- An adapted e-asTTle Writing Matrix that aligns with the structure and language of Writer's Toolbox for assessment in writing

Looking Ahead to 2026

Continued implementation of the new Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum using the Maths No Problem programme

Implementation of the new English Curriculum includes:

- All year levels at Thornton will be using BSLA as our structured literacy approach
- Teachers will continue to take part in professional development to support the rollout of the refreshed English Curriculum

