

Dear colleague

Report of the Task Team for the Review of the Implementation of the National Curriculum Statement – September 2009

We expected it, and it has happened: with a change of government, necessary changes in all sectors, and obviously education, have been a huge priority. Overall we are pleased with the changes, especially the niggles that I have felt have been counter-productive, e.g. the clashing of the Foundations for Learning milestones and the Assessment Standards required for the Assessment Portfolios. We are thus pleased to announce our support strategy for Primary Schools entitled *Short-term plans and suggestions for 2010*. I include future plans for 2011 and beyond below each change. Obviously the deadline may change if the DoE do not adhere to their deadlines.

Please bear in mind that we are reacting to a draft proposal and that some of these suggestions may not be relevant once the final proposal has been tabled.

SHORT TERM PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 2010

We are particularly satisfied with the following possible changes and, although we recognize that the proposals are still in *draft form*, we are planning the various products to assist you in maintaining your school's high standards in the interim phase until the changes are finalized and legislated. Thus the following products and suggestions should reduce your teachers' anxieties and help you plan your 2010 and 2011 budgets.

Change 1: The proposal that assessment portfolios are no longer compiled.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

Use your current assessment portfolio, not as a portfolio, but as an archive of tests, exams and formative activities for assessment. In other words, separate the assessment tasks and use them as desired.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

We are awaiting the new "syllabus"/content map which will form part of the department's new "Curriculum and Assessment Programme" (CAP). Once we have studied the CAP, we shall be upgrading and updating our current assessment portfolio in alignment with the requirements of the CAP.

Change 2: The proposal that only one, well-designed and scaffolded project be completed by each learner in each learning area per year.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

Future Entrepreneurs are in the process of planning and designing an interim e-book in MSWord format indicating suggested projects for each grade and learning area: in other words, two projects per learning area per grade. Although you only need to complete one project, we will supply a choice. We are awaiting the Department's project requirements and will have more detail once these are published. This CD will also include Web references and information chunks to assist schools without reference libraries.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

A second and final version of “projects book” will be sent to clients free of charge.

Change 3: The proposal that a second or additional language be introduced in Grade 1.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

We have recorded audio texts and will be designing worksheets to accompany these texts as an introductory step to introducing English to Grade 1 and 2.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

We plan to create a CD Rom with phonics pronunciation and songs to practise pronunciation, particularly for teachers whose mother-tongue is not English. We are also planning the creation of a remedial English workbook.

Change 4: The proposal that milestones be maintained.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

As you are aware, we developed the Foundations for Learning series (“Reach/Test your Milestones”) in which milestones are addressed. This series is still available for purchase.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

See Change 5 below.

Change 5: The proposal that language across the curriculum be understood by teachers.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

We will also create books of texts from different subject areas across the curriculum (about 2 texts per subject) to facilitate teachers’ and learners’ understanding of language across the curriculum. The activities will be linked to the Foundations for Learning Milestones and thus reinforce our FfL series “Reach/Test your Milestones”. *See Change 1 above.*

Future plan: 2011 onwards

Should there be sufficient interest in the idea, we could release a course explaining the methodology behind the concept behind “language across the curriculum”. This course would ideally be Seta-accredited and thus earn teachers PD (professional development) points on various NQF levels.

Change 6: The proposal that language acquisition and learning become a priority.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

Future has an “Introduction to English Spelling” book and “Maths – just another language” reference guide available for purchase as part of our present product range. From time to time Future will also place notes on our website to assist teachers in regard to the methodology of second language acquisition. (Refer to the note at the end of this letter regarding online communication.)

Future plan: 2011 onwards

Should there be sufficient interest in the idea, we could release a course explaining the methodology behind communicative language acquisition for teaching is addressed. This course would ideally be Seta-accredited and thus earn teachers PD (professional development) points on various NQF levels.

Change 7: The proposal that mother-tongue or home language remain the key focus in the Foundation Phase.

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

As you might not be aware of this, we would like to inform you that our OBE Plus product ranges “For Life” and “Bright Kids” features Grade R to 3 materials in Sesotho, Setswana, IsiXhosa and IsiZulu. We are also translating the “Reach/Test your Milestones” series for Grades 1 to 3 in Sesotho, Setswana and IsiXhosa. We also have an excellent Teacher’s Training Course entitled “Developing my own skills in Foundation Phase”.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

We have recorded audio texts and will be designing worksheets to accompany these texts as an introductory step to introducing English to Grade 1 and 2.

Change 8: The proposal that all teachers should have a simplified teacher’s admin file, which includes the following: annual work schedule; assessment plan; formal assessment tasks and memoranda; textbook to be used; record of each learner’s marks per formal assessment task

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

Future will create a table of contents and provide temporary templates for planning and assessment as mentioned above which will be available for free download off the web by November 2009. Once content maps are made available by the Department of Education, or more guidelines on the format of the Teacher’s File as available, we will offer further help in this regard.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

A final teacher’s files incorporating templates for all requirements will be available for sale in MSWord and hard copy format once the requirements have been finalised.

Change 9: The proposal that Learning Outcomes and Assessment Standards undergo review and possible “content mapping”

Product / suggestions until December 2010:

We are finalising powerpoint presentations of all key content. These presentations offer summaries of all important content with colour and audio enhancement where relevant. We suggest that you continue to use the existing OBE-Plus material during 2010. The upgrades will be available within a year after the DoBE has provided us with adjusted LOs and ASs and the Powerpoint format will assist you in juggling with the sequence of content in the meantime.

Schools buying OBE-Plus for the first time will pay full price but will receive a free update once the new material has been completed.

Future plan: 2011 onwards

Final LGs will be available aligned with the new requirements. Teacher’s Guides will follow six months later as more methodology will be included.

ONLINE COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOLS

Communicate!

In addition to our normal channels of communication, we will also, where possible, use online media to communicate with schools. Our website, www.futureentrepreneurs.co.za may be used to communicate with either our product development team, or our sales and marketing team.

Download free samples!

Free samples of our current products can be downloaded here. Important announcements and events are advertised on the website and links to other interesting educational websites appear on the website. We are in the process of developing a blog which will be hosted on the site. The website also provides links to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Share your ideas!

Should you wish to communicate informally about educational matters in South Africa in general, or comment on Future's products specifically, you are most welcome to join our Facebook group at www.futureentrepreneurs.co.za/fb.asp. Important announcements about changes in educational policy, readiness of a product that Future is developing etc. will also be "tweeted" to those teachers with Twitter accounts if they follow us at http://twitter.com/fe_zar and post comments on our academic blog [riateachertalk](#).