



Department
for Education

Launch date 30 September 2014

Respond by 30 October 2014
Ref: Department for Education

**National Curriculum Reform:
Key Stage 4 Science**

**Consultation on Draft Order and
Regulations**

This consultation seeks views on the draft Order and Regulations that will give effect to the new programme of study for science at key stage 4 from September 2016, and to extend the disapplication of the current programme of study for key stage 4 science for a further school year (2015/16) for all key stage 4 pupils, and extend the disapplication for year 11 pupils in school year 2016/17 to reflect the phasing in of the new programme of study. It follows the consultation on the draft programme of study for key stage 4 science that ran from 11 June 2014 to 23 July 2014.

To Secondary schools; special schools; organisations representing school teachers; subject associations; school governors; parents; young people; higher education; further education; employers/business sector; local authorities; teachers.

Issued 30 September 2014

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

Email: DraftorderKS4science.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

If your enquiry is related to the 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, by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the GOV.UK '[Contact Us](#)' page.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2013 the department published the new national curriculum for all subjects except for English, mathematics and science for key stage 4. In July 2014 an updated national curriculum framework document was published which included the final programmes of study for English and mathematics for key stage 4. First teaching of the new national curriculum began in September 2014 except:

- primary English, mathematics and science for years 2 and 6 pupils, which will be taught from September 2015
- English and mathematics for key stage 4 which will be phased in from September 2015 alongside the new GCSEs in these subjects
- science for key stage 4 which will be phased in from September 2016, alongside the new science GCSEs

Following the consultation on the draft programme of study for science at key stage 4 which closed on 23 July 2014, this consultation seeks views on the draft Order and Regulations that will give effect to the new programme of study and provide for it to be taught from September 2016.

1.2 New programme of study

The updated national curriculum framework document published on 16 July 2014, sets out the statutory programmes of study for all subjects at all four key stages except for science at key stage 4. The framework document can be accessed via this link: [National curriculum in England framework](#).

The national curriculum acts as a benchmark for all schools and provides young people with the knowledge they need to move confidently and successfully through their education. The content at all key stages has been chosen to compare with successful international curricula in the highest performing jurisdictions and sets rigorous requirements for pupil attainment. The proposal for science at key stage 4 has been developed to meet these high expectations.

The draft programme of study for science builds on the key stage 3 programme of study and is consistent with the subject content for the new combined science GCSE which was published on 9 April 2014 and which can be accessed via the following link: [Combined science GCSE content](#).

2 Scope and coverage of the consultation

2.1 This consultation covers the proposed legislative changes to:

- (a) give effect to the government's proposals for changes to the programme of study for key stage 4 science.
- (b) phase the new programme of study so that it is taught to year 10 pupils from September 2016 and to years 10 and 11 pupils from September 2017.
- (c) extend the disapplication of the current programme of study for key stage 4 science for a further school year (2015/16) for all key stage 4 pupils; and extend the disapplication for year 11 pupils in school year 2016/17 to reflect the phasing in of the new programme of study.

2.2 Programme of study

We intend to publish the final programme of study for science by December 2014. This will give schools enough time to prepare to teach it to year 10 pupils from September 2016. These pupils will be the first to sit the new science GCSE exams in June 2018. Pupils in year 11 in school year 2016/17 will be expected to sit the science GCSE exams which they will have been prepared for since September 2015. This means that the Order and Regulations should provide for the new programme of study to be phased in from September 2016 and for the current programme of study to be disapplied for pupils in year 11 in school year 2016/17.

3 Using the consultation document

3.1 Respondents should refer to '*Draft Order and regulations for the programme of study for key stage 4 science*' when responding to this consultation.

Question 1 Do you have any comments on the draft Order which is proposed to:

Give effect to the updated 'National Curriculum in England – Framework Document', which includes the programme of study for science for key stage 4. The programme of study will be taught to year 10 pupils from September 2016 and to all key stage 4 pupils from September 2017.

Question 2 Do you have any comments on the draft Regulations which are proposed to:

Disapply the current programme of study for science for all key stage 4 pupils in school year 2015/16, and for year 11 pupils in school year 2016/17 to allow for the phasing of the new programme of study, set out in question 1.

4 Legislative context

- 4.1 The Secretary of State proposes to make provision under part 6 of the Education Act 2002 having the effect that the current programme of study for key stage 4 science will be revoked and replaced with a new programme of study to be phased in from September 2016.

5 How to respond

- 5.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at:
[https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/.](https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/)

by emailing: DraftorderKS4science.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk.

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Mrs Chris Ward
Department for Education
Assessment, Curriculum and General Qualifications Reform Group
Level 6 Area J
2 St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
S1 2FJ

6 Additional Copies

- 6.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the GOV.UK website.

7 Plans for making results public

- 7.1 The consultation will close on 30 October 2014. We plan to publish a summary of the responses to the consultation by December 2014.