The New Curriculum for Compulsory Basic Education in Finland

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The new curriculum for compulsory basic education in Finland

- The **new National Core Curriculum** for compulsory basic education and upper secondary level in effect since **1.8.2016**
- The National **Core Curriculum** provides a uniform **foundation for local curricula**, thus it enhances equality in education throughout the country.
- **Reform aims** at ensuring that the **knowledge and skills** of Finnish students will remain strong in the future.





General goals of basic education

- **Key goals of the reform include** enhancingstudents participation, increasing the meaningfulness of studies and making it possible to experience success.
- **Students set goals**, **solve problems** and **assess their learning based on set targets**.
- **Teacher's** task is to **instruct and guide** students to become lifelong learners by establishing what the students' individual learning approaches are.





Principles guiding the developme nt of the school culture

- **The ide of a school forming a learning community** is at the heart of curriculum.
- **Operating culture and working methods** are co-created. Students participate in the planning , development and evaluation of the activities.
- **Well-being and safety** create good preconditions for learning.
- Sustainability the necessity of **a sustainable way of living is underlined throughout the curriculum.** (Term: ecosocial knowledge and ability introduced).







Examples of changes

- **Expanding the concept of school/ classroom**

  Learning outside the classroom, e.g. by using technology: classroom, the immediate school environment, museums, galleries, factories, businesses, games and other virtual environments

- **Assessment**

  a variety of assessment methods
  assessment that guides and promotes learning

- **Learning the the basics of coding**

- **Transversal competences**

- **Multidisciplinary learning module**

  Each year every school must have at least one clearly defined theme, project or course that combines the content of different subjects and deals with the selected theme from the perspective of several subjects .

Transversal competences

knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and will

- Thinking and learning to learn
- Cultural competence, interaction and self-expression
- Taking care of oneself and managing daily life
- Multiliteracy
- ICT competence
- Working life competence and entrepreneurship
- Participation, involvement and building a sustainable future

- Cf. 21st century skills

Multidisciplinary modules

- Example of a multidisciplinary theme week

Finnish Curriculum

Three examples of subject integration

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Background

- Curricula of Finnish basic education and upper secondary education are very subject-based
- Integration of subjects has been difficult due to historical reasons and strong interest groups behind all subjects
- Subject integration has been done on the levels of
  - Cooperation between subjects
  - Theme-based studying integrated in subject teaching + theme days etc

- Kulosaari Secondary School
  - Grade levels 7 – 9 and upper secondary (levels 10 – 12)
  - International bilingual Finnish–English school
  - Focus areas languages, society and economics, science and technology
  - 900 students, 85 staff

Three examples of school-level subject integration

Lower secondary religion and ethics



7th grade science and mathematics



Upper secondary 1st science courses

