

Table 7

Primary curriculum

The tables below give an indication of the range of subjects covered without reflecting the content, status (compulsory or elective) or length of time for which a subject is studied. The table does not reflect the inter-disciplinary manner in which subjects are often taught in this phase. Individual Country Archives provide such detailed information. 'Optional' means that a child's parents may request that the child does not study religious education. 'Some' indicates that schools may choose whether to offer religious education within their programmes.

	National language (and literature)	Alternative language/ regional language or mother tongue*	First foreign language	Mathematics/arithmetic	Science	Environment	Information technology	Technology	History	Geography	Society/social studies/ civics/economic awareness	The arts/cultural awareness/drama	Arts/crafts/fine arts	Music/dance	PE/sport/movement	Health	Moral education/ethics	Religious education	Homemaking/domestic skills	Social skills /life skills	European dimension/ multiculturalism
England	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional	•	•	•
Ireland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional		•	•
N. Ireland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional	•	•	•
Wales	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional	•	•	•
Scotland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional	•	•	•
France	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Germany	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Hungary	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some	•	•	•
Italy	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional		•	
Netherlands	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional		•	•
Spain	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	optional		•	•
Sweden	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Switzerland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Australia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some	•	•	•
Canada	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some optional	•	•	•
Japan	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some private	•	•	•
Korea	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some private	•	•	•
New Zealand	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some		•	•
Singapore	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	some		•	•
South Africa	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	some		•	•
USA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

*Alternative language may be either a regional language or mother tongue language

Notes

- France** Although public-sector schools in France are secular, which means that religious education is not taught as a subject in its own right (except, for historical reasons, in three 'départements'), aspects of religious education are taught in other curriculum subjects, with a view to expanding students' cultural knowledge and understanding of world events.
- Spain** Since the beginning of the 2007/08 school year, information and communication technology has been taught from the beginning of primary education as part of the implementation of the 2006 Law on Education (LOE).
- Singapore** English is regarded as an official/national language rather than as a foreign language.
- **South Africa** A review of the content of general education and training (GET) is currently underway

Sources/Further information

For more detailed information on the content of these tables, see the following sections and subsections of the full archive.

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Curricula (age 3-19) ⇒ 5.2 Second phase: Primary ⇒ 5.2.2 Compulsory subjects or 5.2.3 Optional/elective subjects