

## **Q and A – Curriculum**

### **When will the next steps be announced?**

We will announce the next steps shortly.

### **What will the new curriculum look like?**

We intend to restore the National Curriculum to its original purpose – a minimum national entitlement for all our young people organised around subject disciplines.

Ministers are committed to giving schools more freedom from unnecessary prescription and bureaucracy. Ministers have always made clear their intentions to make changes to the National Curriculum, to ensure a relentless focus on the basics and to give teachers more flexibility than the proposed new primary curriculum offered.

### **What happens in the meantime?**

The existing subject-based National Curriculum requirement will remain in force for primary schools. The current framework, introduced in 2000, provides flexibility for schools to adapt the curriculum to their needs.

### **Will primary schools still be getting an additional training day in 2010/11?**

Yes. Primary schools teaching Key Stages 1 and 2 will still receive an extra non-contact day in 2010/11 to help them prepare adequately for the next school year and consider new approaches.

### **Why have you sent out handbooks?**

That decision was taken by the previous Government. They proposed to introduce a new primary curriculum from September 2011 and put in place a programme of support and guidance for schools from January this year. The new Government has decided not to go ahead with this policy for the reasons set out in the Minister's statement to Parliament.

### **Will schools be reimbursed for any costs they have incurred?**

Schools that purchased additional curriculum handbooks and guidance or copies of the proposed new level descriptors will be automatically reimbursed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA).

### **Will this mean the end of Key Stage 2 tests?**

No. Key Stage 2 results are a robust and consistent source of information for parents at a crucial transition point for their child as they move on to secondary school. Tests at 11 mark the end of primary school for each pupil, and it is right that we have a consistent and externally validated view of individual pupils' progress at that time.