

Curriculum

We follow the CAPS curriculum (Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement), as set out by the Department of Education.

Importance of the CAPS Curriculum

Standardisation and Quality:

Uniformity: CAPS provides a standardised curriculum across all schools in South Africa, ensuring that all learners receive the same quality of education regardless of their location¹.

Quality Education: It aims to provide high-quality education that equips learners with the necessary knowledge and skills to compete globally².

Comprehensive Coverage:

Holistic Education: CAPS covers essential educational areas such as literacy, numeracy, science, and technology, ensuring a well-rounded education².

Alignment with National Goals: The curriculum aligns with the National Development Plan, preparing learners to be active and contributing citizens².

Key Elements of the CAPS Curriculum

Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements:

Subject-Specific Guidelines: CAPS includes detailed policy statements for each approved school subject, outlining what learners need to know and be able to do at each grade level¹.

Focus on Critical Skills:

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: CAPS promotes critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, which are crucial for learners' future careers².

By emphasizing these aspects, the CAPS curriculum aims to provide a robust educational foundation that prepares learners for higher education and future employment, while also fostering personal growth and societal participation⁴.

In order for us to ensure the best possible developmental outcomes for our learners we make use of world renowned resources such as:

Letterland Phonics Programme.

Research shows that this engaging and motivating curriculum allows students to quickly progress to word building, reading and writing. The systematic/explicit nature of Letterland results in far less students struggling to read.

NumberSense:

The NumberSense Mathematics Programme has been created to support children's development of a robust sense of numbers and deep understanding of mathematics.

Introduced in Grade 00 and continued in Grade R

Coding & Robotics: this exciting, innovative new subject, which *is compulsory* for **Grade R**.

What is coding and robotics in Grade R?

In Grade R, coding and robotics introduce basic concepts like sequencing, patterns, and problem-solving through hands-on, age-appropriate activities, such as storytelling, games, and simple robotics kits, laying the foundation for computational thinking and future learning in technology.

1. Integration into CAPS Curriculum:

- The inclusion of coding and robotics in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) for Grade R learners is a forward-thinking move. It recognizes the importance of preparing students for a digital future.
- CAPS aims to provide clear guidelines for what should be taught at each grade level, and the introduction of coding and robotics aligns with the need to equip learners with essential 21st-century skills¹.
- By integrating these subjects, educators can foster a generation of students who are not only tech-savvy but also critical thinkers and problem solvers.

2. Why Is It Important?

- **Digital Literacy:** Coding and robotics introduce young learners to the world of technology. They learn how to interact with digital tools, understand algorithms, and create simple programs. These skills are fundamental in today's digital age.
- **Computational Thinking:** Coding encourages logical thinking and problem-solving. It teaches students to break down complex problems into smaller, manageable steps—a skill applicable beyond programming.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Through robotics, learners engage in hands-on activities, designing and building their own creations. This nurtures creativity and innovation.
- **Early Exposure:** Starting early with coding and robotics lays the groundwork for more advanced learning in these fields. It demystifies technology and encourages students to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects.

- **Equity and Access:** By introducing coding and robotics in Grade R, we promote equity. All learners, regardless of background, should have access to these essential skills.
- **Future-Proofing:** The job market is evolving rapidly. Proficiency in coding and understanding robotics concepts prepares students for careers that may not even exist yet.

3. What Does It Look Like in Grade R?:

- In Grade R, coding and robotics activities are age-appropriate and engaging. They might involve storytelling, games, and simple robotics kits.
- Concepts like sequencing, patterns, and problem-solving are introduced through hands-on experiences.
- Learners explore the basics of computational thinking, which will serve as a foundation for more complex coding concepts in later grades².

In summary, integrating coding and robotics into the Grade R curriculum is a positive step toward equipping our young learners with the skills they'll need to thrive in a technology-driven world. It's about empowering them to be creators, problem solvers, and active participants in shaping our digital future