**Ofsted Research Reviews- Subjects**

Principles behind Ofsted’s research reviews and subject reports - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**Introduction:** The curriculum – what pupils learn – is the very core of education. The curriculum in schools in England is built around subjects. Our inspection methodology is, as a consequence, based to a large extent on subject ‘deep dives’. These provide evidence of curriculum quality, which informs our ‘quality of education’ judgement.

The inspections we carried out between September 2019 and March 2020, before we suspended routine on-site inspections of schools, gave us interesting insights into the curriculum in schools. You can read about some of our findings in our [Annual Report 2019/20](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201920-education-childrens-services-and-skills).

This is only the start of our work in this area, though. As a force for improvement, we will be publishing a series of documents from April 2021, including:

* research reviews: these will collate currently available research evidence. We will consider what published research evidence tells us about a high-quality education in each subject
* subject reports: we will inform leaders, teachers and tutors, parents and policymakers about what we have learned about the state of the nation when it comes to the quality of school curriculum in a range of subjects

**Research reviews:** Our aim is that the reviews will support and inform those leading the thinking on subject education in our schools. Professionals from the education sector will also be able to see the research that is informing our conception of a high-quality education in a variety of subjects.

Our research reviews were planned before the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, but their publication is timely. As schools face the challenge of catching up, they will need to think carefully about what content to prioritise, what to limit and what to omit. By setting out the most helpful ways of securing progression in each subject, the research reviews can provide a set of guiding principles for subject leaders.

Our research reviews will collate currently available research evidence. We will consider what the evidence tells us about a high-quality education in each subject.

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| [**Research review series: English**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/curriculum-research-review-series-english)-  15 July 2022 | [**Research review series: computing**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-computing)-  16 May 2022 | [**Research review series: PE**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-pe)-  18 March 2022 | [**Research review series: history**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-history)-  14 July 2021 | [**Research review series: music**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-music)-  12 July 2021 |
| [**Research review series: geography**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-geography)-  17 June 2021 | [**Research review series: languages**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/curriculum-research-review-series-languages)-  7 June 2021 | [**Research review series: mathematics**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-mathematics)-  25 May 2021 | [**Research review series: religious education**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education)-  12 May 2021 | [**Research review series: science**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-science)-  29 April 2021 |

**UoC ITT Curriculum use of reviews**

All subject teams at the University of Cumbria have critically enraged with the research reviews; noting where synergies in best practice exist within our curriculums. Core research reading is linked with CCF and added to our existing range of high quality, recent research and evidence bases.

We share the Ofsted research reviews alongside our CCF resource base with school mentors to help guide and support conversations around high quality curriculum with trainee teachers whilst on placement.