



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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The New Curriculum and the Need for Wisdom/Values



Today students gain their learning through networking with other learners, the internet and other forms of technology, the teacher, the community and parents. There is an acceptance with respect to learning that anyone can learn – anywhere, anytime, anyhow. The internet clearly is a powerful tool and the shift in paradigm is seeing the internet replacing the book.

Because learning and knowledge can be acquired by anyone, anywhere, the need to teach wisdom, integrity and values increases dramatically. That is to say, one can acquire knowledge easily and readily for either good or evil purposes. Schools therefore assume a greater responsibility role in terms of citizenship and using new-founded knowledge for positive purposes. Text-bullying and teen-web-sites which are used to abuse fellow students, and in some cases teachers, fraud through internet banking and designing a terrorist bomb off the internet, are all examples of how instant knowledge via the internet can be used for inappropriate reasons. It is as a consequence of this that schools must 'up the ante' on using knowledge for wise and purposeful actions, always with the greater good of all in mind.

Education is about cultivating humanity. It is about transcendent human values. After all if education has a purpose it is to make the world a better place, thus we need to emphasise the moral purpose of schools.

It is as a consequence of all of this and because of evaluations of current curriculum that the MOE has worked to develop a new curriculum. The curriculum has three phases. Phase 1 was the development from a blank sheet of paper which began in 2001 and has involved the latest research on learning (both international and national).

Consultation has occurred with stakeholders (SPANZ has been represented by Colin Donald). The new draft curriculum document has now reached a point where it is ready to go to Phase 2 – July to December this year – for comprehensive consultation. Phase 3 will see the implementation occurring through 2007 to 2009.

It is envisaged that increasingly schools and local communities will take ownership of the curriculum and as a consequence there is an implication that **school leaders may have significant roles in curriculum matters** for the rest of this decade.

The key elements of the new National Curriculum are:

- vision
- core principles
- values
- key competencies
- learning areas
- pedagogy

The vision is around confident, connected, life-long learners.

Thank you

Graham Young
President