



Australia's National Curriculum

Categories: [News](#)



Australian National Curriculum

We all know Australia has finally decided on a National Curriculum and I, for one am grateful the decision has been made. I remember a time when my nephew moved from Sydney to the Gold Coast late in the year and there was quite a debate about which grade level he should enter. Thankfully, we are now on par with the rest of the country.

But why haven't we adopted a National Handwriting Font? It's the perfect time to do so. We could save an awful lot of confusion and a tonne of money. Yes, that's right... money. Imagine how much less our text books might cost if the publisher could design and print one large run for the entire country instead of small runs to suit the various fonts of each state. As things currently stand, any one text book needs to be created in 5 different school fonts for our country. Graphic artists need to create 5 different books instead of 1. That's a lot of additional time the consumer ultimately pays for. (Yes, I am making the assumption that the savings would be passed on to the consumer). Admittedly, I do not enjoy creating resources in each of the different fonts either but I can see why teachers need them in the classroom. That's why we do it. Indeed, I loved having resources in my state's font when I was in the classroom.

As a prac student, I remember learning to write in the style for my state and I remember the Principal telling us she'd never seen a teacher who could write perfectly in that style. At the time I remember thinking it strange that they'd choose to teach a style of handwriting that nobody could master. If 20 somethings weren't managing it well, what hope did 5 year olds have?

So, what am I really asking here? Well, is any of it really necessary?

I can't imagine the confusion students feel when their family chooses to move interstate only to be introduced to foreign looking letters of the alphabet. The Victorian school font is vastly different from New South Wales, for example. I introduced my daughters (who attend a Queensland school) to the Victorian Pre-Cursive letter 'b'. The look on their faces was priceless! Even the guide lines are different. One state might use dotted thirds while another uses four guidelines in different colours and we constantly try to avoid confusing our students. I'll admit that I have been known to get confused! There are so many variations! How on earth did we get here in the first place? From what I've seen, we're the only country that has such variations.

Personally, I love Sassoon Font, not because it looks anything special but because there was a lot of research put into the development of the font. Students found it easier to read and write. That's good enough for me. (I grew up in a house of Graphic Artists so I learnt to love fonts and I love to read about their development).

The point of the written message is that it can be read and ideas can be shared. Imagine being

FREE TEACHING RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

YES, I would like my FREE Teaching Resources.

Benefit from:
New resources and our top tips delivered to your inbox weekly.

[Click here for INSTANT DOWNLOAD](#)



Printable Resources



Teaching Supplies

SUBSCRIBE TO MY BLOG



[Get the latest via RSS](#) | [Email](#)



[Want to know my tweets?](#)



[Join me at Facebook](#)

HELPFUL SITES

- [Seating Plan Creator](#)

TAGS

Adobe Acrobat 2010 Adobe PDF Reader Adobe Reader Australia Australian Brisbane children learning about money Classroom games classroom games in china create our own dice for classroom games creative teacher discount Donate Donate Teaching Resources educational games email scam engaging in books First day Flood Recovery fly swat games Free teaching resource games games with chopsticks games with ping pong ball Learn About Money literacy lessons with magazines mathematics game maths games National

a student with learning difficulties whose family moves around the country regularly due to work commitments. I've worked with families in the armed forces. The family is doing all they can, carting paperwork around the country and outlaying money for speech therapists, tutoring etc only to find that moving interstate is like traveling to a whole new country when it comes to handwriting. It's crazy! If we're going to create a National Curriculum for all teachers to learn to feel comfortable with, it only makes sense to me that the process comes complete with a national handwriting font.

Well, now you know what I think. It's your turn – what do you think?

No related posts.

Spread The Love, Share Our Article



Comments

 236

 Like

I totally agree – what a fantastic idea!



KBell
Aug 2, 2011

Yes I totally agree! The current system is mad!

PHemphill
Aug 2, 2011

I can only agree with your comments. I did my teacher training in S.A. and now teach in Qld. A vastly different Junior Primary writing style had to be learned. I found it quite difficult and have often wondered why we teach a different style in each state.

judy stephenson
Aug 2, 2011

I hadn't considered this before, but now that you have raised the issue, yes I agree. The other thing that would be handy is if our handwriting fonts were compatible with those available in the major word processing documents. Many times I have perfected a document at home, in NSW foundation font, and gone to print it at a school -or indeed I have sent it to a colleague or even tried to open it at a different school, and had it totally fail! I know how to install fonts onto computers, and these days carry a copy of the fonts on my thumb drive for such an event, however many schools only allow their fonts to be "tampered with" by someone with an admin password (and we all know that they are hard to come by).

So I say yes, introduce a national handwriting font AND align it with a common word processing font so that it is forevermore accessible to those who may need it ad hoc!

Curriculum National Handwriting Font Premier's
Fund primary school Queensland
Floods RSPCA sight word splat
Simple Classroom Games splat game
survey **Teacher Resources** teaching
children about money teaching
resources teach this
update adobe Victoria Floods voucher

Felicity

Aug 2, 2011

I agree! It's hard enough that each state has their own handwriting, but when you move schools within a state, they also have their own. I'm at a small school in WA and we are supposed to use the SA font! Talk about confusing! and what about all the resources we made as Prac students using the Vic Cursive font we were told HAD to be used in schools!

Elle

Aug 2, 2011

I absolutely agree with a national font. I am a kindergarten teacher and have worked in daycare (part time) for the past 2 years. I have spent hours making resources from your site and others that are worthy of use, and it is so confusing the number of different fonts. It isn't rocket science, surely children need to all commence their education with a supposed level playing field and then diversify later in life, as their needs and desires change. I too like sassoon font, it looks good and if children can read and write it with ease, then let's use it nationwide. Great idea, should go hand in hand with new national curriculum and ELF. Thanks Cherry

Cherry Schischka

Aug 2, 2011

Totally agree with you! Would love to see us adopt a national font – the question will be which one?

T Hoffrichter

Aug 2, 2011

I agree 100%. It is a ridiculous exercise to maintain differentiation between the states when it obviously serves no purpose for the education of our children. If there was some justification to retain any sort of state based learning, fair enough, but simply for the sake of "that's how we've always done it" does not carry any weight.

Greg Shaw

Aug 2, 2011

I agree... along with a National Curriculum, there should be a National Handwriting Style, as well as National Registration – to allow us (like nurses are now) to work interstate without difficulty or extra expenses. If we expect our students to be at the same level, academically, then they should not be disadvantaged with having to learn a new style of handwriting should they move interstate.

sonJa

Aug 2, 2011

I concur!

Anon

Aug 2, 2011

You are absolutely right! I spent the last 28 years teaching junior school in Victoria. I have a range of books for handwriting as the state constantly changed their minds!! Whilst I do believe that exposure to a variety of fonts is beneficial, it is very rare to see the Victorian 'b' in any novel, picture story book, newspaper or magazine. Same story with the 'f' that goes over 3 lines and the 'z' with the tail. Let's not make things more complicated than it needs to be. If students aren't going to see these fonts except in school handwriting exercises and drills, let's eradicate them and have a national handwriting style. I must add that most students in secondary schools print – after all that hard work (3 years at least) of learning how to join letters!!

Jennie Patterson

Aug 2, 2011

Couldn't agree more. It makes no sense whatsoever for each state to be teaching a different handwriting style. I fail to see the point of this and it can only cause great confusion for those students who move between states a few time in their school life. Surely if an 'Australian' curriculum has been designed to ensure all students are on the same page, shouldn't all students be learning the same handwriting style?

Bernie Herron

Aug 2, 2011

Why are we still teaching cursive writing at all? My students hate cursive writing, they have difficulty reading cursive writing (as they only see it in the classroom whiteboard) and they see it as irrelevant. It is suppose to be a faster style of writing than printing but I know many who would disagree. Students only read printed text both in books and worksheets. They use laptops, iPods etc at university lectures to type notes now. Is it valid to spend 50 minutes a week teaching these skills? Could this time be better spent on all the tasks teachers are suppose to be teaching in our crowded days?

Kaaren Smith

Aug 2, 2011

I definitely agree with you and I think you've covered all the points comprehensively! I think it may well be something in the curriculum that has simply been overlooked for it is not seen as a key learning area.

Good luck,

I hope those in authority get the

message and take action.

Nadine Hartley

Aug 2, 2011

I definitely agree with you and I think you've covered all the points comprehensively! I think it may well be something in the curriculum that has simply been overlooked for it is not seen as a key learning area.

Good luck,
I hope those in authority get the message and take action.

Nadine Hartley

Aug 2, 2011

The whole country needs to understand that there are already industry standards in fonts and have been for years. Graphic artists, Printers and signwriters all know this so do Daftspople and Software writers so why do the Education Departments have to do such alien fonts breaking all the rules for letter formation. Yes we do need a National Style of handwriting but it needs to be an industry reconised one too using 3 parts asender, body and decender and the line thicknesses are a quarter of a square slightly thicker on each side whilst top and bottom of curves are always slightly thinner. so Education Departments stop remaking the wheel with a graphic artist be real and find something that small hands can form not only experienced hands.

Fiona

Aug 2, 2011

I agree there needs to be a uniform font. Having learnt the old fashioned "running writing" in my schooling, I then learnt the new script being taught in QLD. After moving to NSW I struggled to cope with the subtle variations and completely different teaching methods here. I used to have lovely handwriting. It now is a cross between all styles, unless I am being really careful. (I must admit, I doubt any savings on larger print lots would be passed on by publishers. That would be too good to be true.)

Mel Minter

Aug 2, 2011

I am not surprised that a national handwriting wasn't introduced. It is hardly a national curriculum anyway. People who move schools or interstate will still face the same curriculum problems. A Unit may have been taught at their first school in term 1 but not taught in another school till term 3. If you move you may still revisit previously taught concepts and miss others. So really if we are talking a national curriculum, let's make sure it doesn't disadvantage any one in any

state. Including handwriting – print preferably as most high school students return to print.

Judy
Aug 2, 2011

Personally, I agree. What is holding this back? Have the politicians and educators said anything on the matter?

Stephen McCosker
Aug 2, 2011

I'm a teacher at a special school in Victoria and grew up in NSW. My kids have enough trouble reading and writing in plain print what hope do they have learning to read and write in Vic cursive when the letters look nothing like they do in books. Let's hope the national curriculum addresses this issue teachers around the country can come to a reasonable and inclusive compromise.

Ben Lindner
Aug 2, 2011

Having grown up in SA, and trained and worked in Qld, I hear what you say, sisters! However, I think it is all immaterial because, in my experience, by say Gr 5 – what semblance is there to ANY of the state styles by any of the students (especially boys?). In Canada however, the system is different – the handwriting is taught from Prep and expected in EVERY subject. When students cannot manage it, the school OT comes in and provides exercises etc to assist correct manipulation of writing tools, posture, the whole bit. Can you imagine handwriting EVER being such a priority in any of our states, let alone nationally? We wish!!

Jacquilyn
Aug 2, 2011

One thing I have noticed is the letter 'a'. In most children's books it has the extra curved line on top of the letter, yet we expect our children to write the letter 'a' without this. But I agree on a national guideline with print writing for all grades. Why bother with cursive writing? Print looks much neater and we can read what is written!

Heather
Aug 2, 2011

I agree, I grew up in the RAAF and moved 16 times – my handwriting is unique! I am experiencing the same problems now with my children as we have moved from NT to WA to NSW and my eldest son has developed the same unique style as mine – a mish mash. Bring on a National Handwriting Font

Deanna

Aug 2, 2011

I find this idea interesting. As a NZ teacher, we have a 'guideline' to teaching handwriting but no associated font available at all. Many NZ teachers use Comic Sans MS or Century Gothic, because these letters have the 'correct' a, but very few fonts have the 'correct' k formation. Teaching junior pupils, I have always been aware of the confusion that can be caused by unfamiliar font types – I'd love to have a national font here!

Maree C

Aug 2, 2011

I totally agree, having trained in QLD and now reside and teach in NSW, it would be a godsend!!! Bring on some consistency.

Vanessa

Aug 2, 2011

It is important to have a streamline approach so everyone gets an even playing field across the states. I have not had personal experiences of other States font styles during my studies as I was taught in a New Zealand school system.

My practicums experiences required me re-adjust my writing skills to another font style of writing such that of Queensland.

It is a skill to be learned by Teacher's on top of other many skills required. I can sympathise with families and teachers moving interstate and agree that it can be a costly experience.

I agree 100% for the same font style across all States.

Oala

Oala Chapman

Aug 2, 2011

Being a preschool on the border of vic and nsw I totally agree as we have children go to school in both states so we are constantly challenged with which font to use, usually use both and talk about the differences, which is used at which schools.

Liz

Aug 2, 2011

It's about time that we actually taught what was best for our students, rather than designing new courses. It seems to me that each time someone new comes into a department, like dogs, they need to mark their territory and justify their existence. Maybe we could save stacks of time, money and effort, by simply improving a lot of what already exists, rather than starting

again.
Vera

Vera
Aug 2, 2011

Totally agree. Vic modern cursive is extremely difficult for student's who struggle. Bring on national font.

Barb
Aug , 2011

Barb
Aug 2, 2011

We came here from South Australia and have our grandson in our care. I couldn't believe the different font I suddenly had to master, on top of all the other stuff. It is beyond me why there needs to be a difference.

Rosalie
Aug 2, 2011

I agree. I have also thought about this and can't believe how different each state's curriculum is and even handwriting styles.

Teacher123
Aug 2, 2011

Yes!!! One national font that is clean, clear, pragmatic and in commercial use makes economic and social sense. We need to think and act in sustainable ways so our energies can be focused on important issues like clean energy, recycling and reuse to promote sustainable environmentally futures. Ah the print industry and education department can improve a lot here lets support and encourage it 😊

Casper
Aug 2, 2011

I totally agree. One handwriting style for the whole country. Why haven't they thought of that???? I guess there may be a political fight over which font style the nation would adopt.

Terri B
Aug 2, 2011

Yeah! A National font – But which one?
??

I am a bit of a 'handwriting dictator' in my classroom, my students are constantly being reminded to sit properly, hold the pencil correctly and form their letters well.

Needless to say it is frustrating using resources that don't use the same font and trying to explain to students why there is a difference and why we have to write using the 'approved' font.

I love being able to get my resources in the font that relates to our state and is consistent with what I am teaching in the class.

Helena

Aug 2, 2011

I am a 'mature age' pre-service teacher about to attend my first prac in an Early Years setting. I absolutely agree with your recommendations for a standardised handwriting font that will make teaching handwriting, and the transitioning of students across our country, a great deal easier. I moved from Victoria to Queensland when I was younger and it is difficult to perfect another handwriting font, just to please a state curriculum. Now is the perfect time to introduce a standard font...let's hope the people designing our new curriculum see it this way too.

Kim Bury

Aug 2, 2011

What a great idea....makes so much sense! I look forward to reading about another one of your wonderful early morning thoughts!!! Petition?!

Suesanne

Aug 2, 2011

This very topic was in the discussion at a meeting today regarding texts for next year. We need to standardise and nationalise all areas of the curriculum for the sake of our sanity.

Jenni Lee

Aug 2, 2011

Great idea. Go for it.

Julia B

Aug 2, 2011

Totally agree and now would be the most opportune time to make the decision about a standard font. I would also like to note that upper primary - Years 5-6 in NSW get the opportunity to explore different styles of handwriting /calligraphy so we still would still be able to expose students to different fonts/styles purely for enjoyment and perhaps presentation of "special" projects. Of course word processing has this option too!

Jenny

Aug 2, 2011

totally agree, queensland font is so hard and I still cannot get my hands to make it look as it should. Jolly phonics use the Sassoon font and it looks lovely and flows. There should be a national font as families travel these days it is becoming important to focus on

learning and not spending hours trying to perfect a writing font that changes as the children progress through the school system.

Anne D
Aug 2, 2011

Totally agree! I am in a WA school and we teach Victorian Modern Cursive... how strange!

Sheree
Aug 2, 2011

I think Sassoon would be great, Easy for the children to write. They do adapt to reading and typing with different fonts but Sassoon seems to flow easily and is easy to read for the beginner. Definitely would help with resources and interstate moves as well. Is it on the agenda?

Jean
Aug 2, 2011

I am in total agreeance. I have brought this up at our school before but not everyone agreed with printing as they do in NSW. There were arguments for learning to write in Vic cursive so that there is an ease in joining letters together and writing quickly. I'm still not convinced this is necessary for our future kids who are reading print and using technology more than ever. We should definitely have a unified handwriting but which is the better one to adopt?

Tracey U
Aug 2, 2011

I agree with having one font for the whole country. Having come from the UK and embarked on teaching as a second career in Aus, I was surprised how meticulous the topic is. The letter 'f' for instance in the UK is taught to sit below the line (in my day) like the letter p, yet it makes sense to have it above the line just like the typed 'f' is. I am presuming that 'f' is written the same all through Australia, I don't know, I have only come to learn about the Queensland cursive. It is important that all students are taught the same way where basics such as handwriting is concerned. Also I think that rather than just having rules for the sake of them, having handwriting that looks aesthetically appealing is important, even if it does not always stick to the rules. Writing after all is all about ensuring that we communicate effectively- but maybe with technology as it is, it could be a dying art form once these students leave school. Despite this having one font would certainly make it a lot easier for everyone I am sure. Agreeing on which one is the best for the country might prove to be more difficult as many get

attached to the styles and forms they become used to.

Christine
Aug 2, 2011

I agree wholeheartedly ! The idea of a national font makes great sense – something simple, basic, and easy to read and write so that it makes sense to all. This is especially important as more and more people move so readily from state to state. Surely it will only enhance children's confidence in their own learning as they move across state borders, not to mention making it easier on those teachers who also make such a move.

Denise
Aug 2, 2011

I have actually written to the national curriculum organisers and they said they are considering it but no decision has been made yet. As a WA trained teacher who is married to a RAAF member, I am not looking forward to having to purchase/replace/throw out all my resources everytime we move. My understanding is that handwriting a guideline, not a requirement.

Ashley
Aug 2, 2011

The states cannot agree on something economically important like the width of our state railway lines..... therefore it is highly optimistic to think that we'd be able to agree on a font.

Janis C
Aug 2, 2011

Absolutely agree! ...plus , even though it has been NSW Foundation style forever for me , I am convinced the Handwriting versions with a slope and a join from the start are simply the best. Makes cursive writing so much easier from the word go!

Pamela Everingham
Aug 2, 2011

I absolutely agree, a national font would make life a whole lot easier. Why teach a font that isn't used in published storybooks, computer, information texts etc? None of the books in our school library have been typed in Victorian Cursive, it's seems bizarre to have to teach it. How confusing it must be for our students. I am all for a standardised font for all states!

Rachel
Aug 2, 2011

Totally agree.

Karen D

Aug 2, 2011

I agree, Handwriting is part of the curriculum and so should be the same across the country.

Kellie

Aug 2, 2011

I also agree. It would be so ridiculous if we have a national curriculum but don't also have this include a transition to a national font. I guess the arguing is going to be about which one?

Zelka Stark

Aug 2, 2011

Well here's one to set the 'cat amongst the pigeons', one state in the USA is considering not teaching handwriting at all, only to teach children how to sign their name for official documents... All very well I say but what if the world is computerless, then we are going to have students who will be 'virtually' illiterate. The handwriting is not really a concern, my gripe is that all states should have the same starting age and this is not being addressed by the Australian Curriculum!

Ros Williams

Aug 2, 2011

YES! YES! YES! and preferably a font that is relatively easy to master - we don't have time to devote to lengthy handwriting lessons (and many no longer see the relevance in our digital age).

Ditto comments re: fonts loaded onto school computers - so frustrating when the documents so carefully prepared at home come out in gobbledygook.

Helene

Helene Boller

Aug 2, 2011

Well here's one to set the 'cat amongst the pigeons', one state in the USA is considering not teaching handwriting at all, only to teach children how to sign their name for official documents... All very well I say but what if the world is computerless, then we are going to have students who will be 'virtually' illiterate. The handwriting is not really a concern, my gripe is that all states should have the same starting age and this is not being addressed by the Australian Curriculum!

Ros Williams

Aug 2, 2011

I whole heartedly agree, and was very disappointed that the National

Curriculum didn't include a national handwriting style. That was one of the first things I looked for.

Lyn Hart

Aug 2, 2011

Great idea! I was educated in NSW did my initial teacher training there and have since taught in NSW, SA & Vic. I have of course developed my own 'style' which most of my students have been able to read in any state. I've always wondered why students can't be taught the 'script' of published writing ie what they see most often in the texts we immerse them in.

Tonia M Aug 3 2011

Tonia Mizzi

Aug 2, 2011

I think it is time we had a unified font for students handwriting. Lets cut the confusion and keep it simple. Many years ago, when I was at high school, I had a friend move interstate from QLD to NSW in year 8. Even then her writing style was so at odds that many teachers took quite a while to adjust. In terms of printing posters etc I have to admit I have always been somewhat of a rebel. I firmly believe that students need exposure to a variety of typefaces. Rarely are readers in "foundation" and out in the real world it can get pretty whacky sometimes. I like to use a variety of typefaces. On my smartboard I only use NSW foundation font when I do handwriting lessons or write something myself. Otherwise give me Arial and comic sans.

Megan Blanch

Aug 2, 2011

Bring it on!!!!

Anon

Aug 2, 2011

I agree that there should be a standard handwriting font - having taught (and being registered to teach) in 5 Australian states, all with their own handwriting style, which may be dissimilar to standard print found in books and newspapers. Many of the printable teaching resources are specific to the handwriting font of the state of production and are often not transferrable. I usually use NSW print when I note take, but my children (as noted by others associated with the RAAF) have developed various styles from having attended schools both overseas (Malaysia - NSW and Vic) and in Australia.

Margaret (currently teaching in Victoria, but trained in NSW / ACT)

Margaret

Aug 2, 2011

I agree, another point is by the time they get to high school these days (and my daughter is in year 7 as the high school take them from year 7 now at some schools) they are using a computer 50% of the time and typing not even handwriting as much and yes if there is handwritten work to do my daughter tends to print.

Karen
West Australia

Name
Aug 2, 2011

I agree. There is no point in having a range of fonts for the different states. A national font makes sense. It should be simple, easy to form. and resemble common fonts used in publishing, signs and word processing. I would only qualify this by saying that children who have learnt to write in the state font should be allowed to continue.

Colette Jewell
Aug 2, 2011

I'm probably going to get shot for this but I'm not a big handwriting "nazi" (can I use that term) I write in my states font on the board but I'm happy if my kids are writing - that's what's important to me not if they are writing in Vic, NSW or QLD font but I do totally agree that we should have some kind of national font to avoid confusion when moving from state to state.

Marni Telford
Aug 2, 2011

I'm in total agreeance - and why not go for national registration too!

Norah
Aug 2, 2011

Yes the idea of a national handwriting script seems like a great idea - however who is willing to forgo all that they have already done in terms of making current resources in their state script and replace it with another. Who is to choose this national font? As a Queenslander I say lets all use the Qld font - but I am sure teachers in other states would object. Perhaps now is too soon to introduce this idea and if changed there needs to be great consultation with all parties involved and experts in this field to get a script that is suitable to all.

Irene Elder
Aug 2 2011

Irene Elder
Aug 2, 2011

When we were introduced to THRASS at the beginning of the year (a Qld school) we were told that Sassoon

WAS going to be the national font when ACARA comes in and we might as well get a head-start and use it from that moment. I love it – the Qld font was hideous and the cursive had no logical flow. Can't wait for Sassoon! My only issue with it is the little flips at the end of each letter – it's very hard for Preps to not make everything look like an umbrella handle 😊

Juliet
Aug 2, 2011

Definitely the way it should go, but as someone has already pointed out, how would you get the states to agree on a common font?

Colleen Howarth
Aug 2, 2011

Totally agree! Having been educated in NSW then taught in 3 other states it is a wonder my handwriting is legible! My own children have been to schools in three different states and have grumbled about having to change their writing styles on more than 1 occasion. (especially when teachers won't recognise the difficulties faced by these children who move interstate). A nice basic foundation style would be perfect!

Frances Louise Laing
Aug 2, 2011

I agree 100% Teaching in a school in northern NSW we have lots of children changing states and this causes a problem. Sassoon would be a great national font as it is simple, easy to do and reduces confusion with letters such as b/d. A national script is a great idea!!

debbie woods
Aug 2, 2011

I agree totally. I grew up and trained in QLD and now live in the NT. We are supposed to teach the VIC font – where, I'm sorry, but a 'p' and a 'b' look nothing like it written anywhere else OR on any type of computer technology – especially a keyboard. I teach in QLD font, as even though the letters are more square, they do look somewhat like the letter intended – and all my resources are in QLD font as well. Have not read all the above posts, but do agree with (and wonder why we haven't done it sooner) a National: standards, font, school age, teacher registration, school holidays, and also adopt the Territory's policy of paid study leave after 4 years of service! We are not that big a country, surely we can get it together to help the kids, as a lot of kids do move interstate and suffer because of the differences in policies.

Sonya - NT
Aug 2, 2011

This is the most sensible idea I have heard all year. It would be fantastic.

Lynne
Aug 2, 2011

I don't think it will happen and the teaching of handwriting as a separate subject may well fade out as the years and new technologies go by. In 45 years of teaching in NZ, NSW, Queensland, UK and Spain, I have always been amazed by the fact that young children who can read print script sentences seem to have no difficulty reading clearly written cursive, of whatever kind!

Bev Henderson
Aug 2, 2011

I agree – as long as it is Old Cursive!!

Belinda
Aug 2, 2011

I totally agree. Having a different font also affects children who come from overseas who have to relearn a different handwriting font. Another thing I have noticed with my own children is that they all had beautiful Vic Modern Cursive handwriting in Year 3 but by Year 7 they had all developed their own idiosyncratic handwriting style. I feel like we waste a lot of time on handwriting lessons – time that could be better spent on other areas of the curriculum.

Heather
Aug 2, 2011

I agree, there should be one font for the country. Imagine how great it would be if our texts could cost less!

K. Lamb
Aug 2, 2011

I totally agree that one font makes so much more sense.

Mary
Aug 2, 2011

I'll go even further-if we are going to have a National Curriculum how about National Starting Age, (I vote for 5 by the end of the prev December) national name for the first year at school (currently we have Kindergarten, Prep, Year One and Trannies in NT!!) and national PAY for teachers!!

Robyn
Aug 2, 2011

Great to see someone is thinking! Standardising our handwriting is a logical and practical idea. As a Sydney girl who trained as a primary teacher in Victoria, I remember painstakingly practising Vic cursive at home and positioning myself in view of the flashcards on the wall before I modelled a handwriting lesson to Prep students on my teaching rounds. I will never forget the day I wrote a capital "I" with cross bars at the top and bottom, only to see the disgusted expression of my mentor teacher at the back of the room, shaking her head, flapping her arms, signing at me to stop... "But I was copying the flashcards" I whispered meekly over the heads of the preppies at my feet. "No!" she barked emphatically "You are wrong, we do not do it like that." I never learned why there was a discrepancy nor will I forget the awkwardness and confusion I experienced. If a National handwriting font eliminates such moments from being repeated, then I am all for it.

Natasha, Gippsland
Aug 2, 2011

We have heard up here in Qld from somebody who has been involved with creating the National Curriculum that they have thought about and are in the process of deciding on what the national handwriting style will be. It is in the cards so I guess we just have to be patient and wait.

Anon
Aug 2, 2011

Message

Carmel Wilson
Aug 2, 2011

Okay ladies and gentlemen, to all of you that have had your say, where will you go from here???? It is all vey well for this perc entage of of all you having your two cents say, but what about ALL the other teachers that do not have access to this site and are not aware of this subject? by the way I am in total agreement with all of you and I hate VMC, as of course I am in WA. so, where do we go from here???

Sharon
Aug 2, 2011

I agree 100%, it is a fantastic idea!!!

L.Rizk
Aug 2, 2011

How SENSIBLE!

A. Cornish
Aug 2, 2011

NSW letter k sucks. Kids write it as an R and no other font has the same style k. Confusing and stupid. I went to school and uni in SA and now teach in NSW and my year 6 students were teaching me where to loop, what the f looks like when it links, etc. Funny handwriting lesson..

Jac

Aug 2, 2011

I agree. Let's make it easier for our students to learn and understand. I moved interstate from NSW to QLD and therefore did year 6 and year 7 in the same year, plus had to learn new handwriting and even how maths was done. Kids have enough on their plates in life. One curriculum, one handwriting style will certainly move Australian students in the right direction.

Heidi SC

Aug 3, 2011

Victorian Modern Cursive. Hmm...well, it was never designed for 4 year olds to write anyway. Sadly, we see it prescribed and used as the modelled font in so many junior primary classes. My understanding is that it was actually designed for children to write from the age of eight years and older. Please correct me if I am wrong. Therefore, my concern relates more to what is developmentally appropriate for Pre-k, Kindy, Pre primary, year 1 and possibly year 2. Schools in W.A have spent a fortune changing many of their resources to accommodate this font style. What a waste of precious time and money -Just like having different fonts for different states. Several O.T's I have spoken with call it Victorian Modern Curse!! Some children manage this font. They are children with very well developed fine motor control and a strong ability to visually discriminate. There has been articles written about which is the best font to use. There is a suggestion that the straighter fonts eg. ball and stick type fonts are far better to use than any italic or cursive type fonts. The argument is that a majority of the print that children will reference at this age, when learning to write, is written in a simple font. How confusing and complex 'we' make it for children to learn. Writing the font is one thing, reading the font is another. Since the introduction of V.M.C I have observed that a majority of Kindy children take far longer to recognise their name let alone write it. Adults fatigue much sooner when reading large amounts of cursive text because it is a known fact that it is harder to read...And guess what?.. this is why 'they' print a majority of texts/books, novels, signs etc. in simpler font types. It is not rocket science, though someone has made it just that!

Joy
Aug 11, 2011

Joy
Aug 3, 2011

Excellent point. Well-made.
Thank you.

Rebecca
Aug 3, 2011

Wow, I had never thought about it before, but to have a consistent handwriting style throughout the country is a perfect idea. With a change to a National Curriculum, now would be an appropriate time for this to happen.

Liz Bobbermien.

Elizabeth Bobbermien
Aug 3, 2011

You would think that a National font would have been an obvious thing to think about when designing a National Curriculum, but apparently not! I agree with all your comments.

Anne J.
Aug 3, 2011

I'm with you guys...
SonJa has the right idea. Not only handwriting nationwide but REGISTRATION too. The problems I went through to move from Qld to NSW was infuriating.
National curriculum across the board for me!!!!
anon

sue
Aug 3, 2011

Totally agree. It's also easier for parents, I know that I spent all last year trying to remember to put that loop in a K when I wrote my son's name.

1 Curriculum, 1 handwriting style.

But I've been questioning this since my son started pre-school.

Judi
Aug 3, 2011

I totally agree with everyone. A National Curriculum should not only include all KLAs but handwriting that taught the same Australia wide would benefit both students and teachers.

Cheryl Qld
Aug 3, 2011

We use sason font at our school through THRASS, its fantastic, and does everything you say.

Renae

Aug 3, 2011

Yep makes sense- now the ? is how do we encourage this decision to be made????

Kerrie J

Aug 3, 2011

You have earned 2 thumbs up!!
Great suggestion, I am with you all the way!

Sharon

Aug 3, 2011

I am 100% agreeable on this topic. National curriculum means all areas of schooling for our kids. As a Mum who teaches her kids through distance education handwriting has been an issue that was annoying. Going from Qld to NT has been hard for my son to make the change. The NT positions there letters on different lines than Qld and then some cursive letters are quite different.

We are one country so why not have one style of handwriting.

Kachena Cullen

Aug 3, 2011

What a fantastic idea - Victorian cursive is such a rubbish font and we need to improve the quality of handwriting our children are producing. If we all used a simple straight basic font it would make teacher's and children's lives so much easier. It would be closest to what they start writing naturally and not some ridiculous thing with tags and letters that don't look like letters.

Gaylia

Aug 3, 2011

Yes I totally agree. Living in a Queensland coastal town we enrol many students from interstate and there are always problems getting them to change their font. I find the QLD font very difficult for young children and new teachers with all the wedges.

Lyn T

Aug 3, 2011

you are brilliant, we have all been thinking this for ages, but now action is being taken. please also remember special schools as some students are dual enrolled and we are part of the system too. thanks.

val

Aug 3, 2011

What a great idea. Anything that makes it easier for students/teachers moving from state to state has to be beneficial. If it also leads to less expensive resources to support handwriting, even better.

Joy R
Aug 3, 2011

I believe that just recently the majority of American States are no longer required to teach cursive script at schools. Since there is little need to write in cursive (application forms etc) and technology has replaced long hand notetaking. The focus is simply on a legible script, no requirements for a specific font. Suggestions were put forward that students should study "fonts" as many here do in ICT - which is appropriate for what type of text and situation.

Vanessa Simpson
Aug 3, 2011

Yes super idea. We should have some sensible consistency. I think though, it would be good to look at the modern cursive approach now used across the UK. This teaches a very simple method of 'joining' too!

A G8 idea
Aug 3, 2011

Yes super idea. We should have more consistency. I think though, it would be good to look at the modern cursive approach now used across the UK. This teaches a very simple method of 'joining' too!

A G8 idea
Aug 3, 2011

I agree and have been saying this for years. As teacher in the NT I get many Defence children who move around a lot. So last week they were in one state being told this is how you do a 'b' and then this week they have moved to the NT and being told something else. how is this fair and making their learning consistent?

Susan
Aug 3, 2011

Susan
Aug 3, 2011

Yes I agree it can be very frustrating the way it is at the moment

Julie Benham
Aug 3, 2011

I currently teach Sasoon Font in my Stage 1 class. I feel it leads very naturally into cursive script. I can teach this even though the NSW standard is Foundation because I do it in

conjunction with the THRASS model. I am comfortable with both scripts and am happy teaching either, but this is the one we have agreed on to use as staff. It seems very comfortable and natural for the kids also.

Jen Melville
Aug 3, 2011

Coming from teaching in the UK, any new font was going to be challenging to adopt. However teaching in Year 3 and getting new students from different states and trying to teach them to write differently, is an uphill climb. If we had a national font, this would be one less 'personalised learning' target we need to worry about.

Nicki
Aug 3, 2011

I totally agree!!!!!! I absolutely hate it when a new student comes to class and I have to explain to them we don't write like that (it is hard to 're-train' grade 5/6s it is unrealistic) - and when you are grading them on handwriting they receive poor marks because they don't write 'our' way... the parents hate it.

Alisha
Aug 3, 2011

I do agree with a National font to make the transition from state to state easier but so many children prefer to print these days. My own high school child prints instead of writing cursive. I sometimes question why we need to teach 'joined up writing' as so many students change to what they prefer by high school. How many years will it take for them to just type on keyboards and make the pencil/pen a thing of the past? Another thing.... how many texts in everyday life do we read in cursive? None, unless you are a student in year 3 to 12 at school? And that is only the case if the teacher is modelling correct handwriting techniques and formation. Books, newspapers, computers all deliver their text in PRINT!

Shandell Gammon
Aug 3, 2011

OK, everyone seems to agree. So how do we progress this idea with the powers that be?

Sam Devine
Aug 3, 2011

I totally agree. In WA we use Victorian Modern Cursive to teach writing. However, students from Year 3 are often encouraged to simplify their f, k, q, r, v, w, x and z letters and to close their b and p letter formations. Having

a national writing font would be ideal for all students and for consistency across Australia.

I am a big fan of your NSW font – straight forward, uncluttered, modern and very easy to write and read.

Behind you 100%.

Jilly

Aug 4, 2011

i was only discussing the same thing the other day with a colleague – don't know how to find out what is happening in regard to this issue. In our discussion we spoke about the need for it to be implemented over a number of years beginning with kindergarten or the early grades so as not to confuse older students who have just coming to terms with the style they are learning. I learned italics and have not used it since except to show students how silly it was. The only disappointment will be when all the resources we have made / bought are not usable including those from you

kay

Aug 4, 2011

I agree. Mind you I attended a national curriculum seminar / workshop in Canberra in the early 90's and most states had to agree to disagree then so here we are again. Sounds more positive this time so let's hope each state doesn't adapt as they are prone to do. Handwriting has always been a problem. Tassie's isn't too bad but the kids have problems with the r and t being too similar and hard to perfect. In an ideal world we could fine one and just get on with it.

Robyn Aug 3 2011

robyn smedley

Aug 4, 2011

Couldn't agree more. I also am with Kaaren Smith (August 2) for the abolishment of cursive writing. I find it so difficult to read any of my students cursive writing and let's face it – how many books are printed in cursive writing? Exactly, none at all. So why are we making our children learn it?

Katrina Frampton

Aug 4, 2011

What a very sensible idea! I have heard that Sassoon font is the one rumored to be the National font. Can anyone substantiate this? We can only hope that someone passes on all these pledges of support for a National font to the ACARA leaders and they have the wisdom to make a decision pronto.

Margie Macd.

Aug 4, 2011

I also agree. As a teacher I have changed my handwriting 4 times to suit various bureaucratic whims. The National Curriculum should be supported by a standard handwriting style that will allow a reasonable print run for copy books. Australia has a small population compared to other places and the cost of duplicating 6 or 7 different handwriting styles is considerable. The same argument can be leveled at the states and territories duplicating documents. If we have a national curriculum why does each state and territory have all those people duplicating curriculum. Many years ago I was told that between 20 and 30 percent of the education budget was eaten up by this unseen part of administration. Imagine the difference it would make if class numbers in each room in Australia were cut by 20 to 30%.

Elva Barjasic
Aug 4, 2011

I agree. It would make things a lot easier for everyone.

Stef
Aug 4, 2011

I also agree that we should have one font for all states and now is the time to make it happen!

Simone
Aug 4, 2011

I agree totally, Students with learning difficulties have a hard enough time without adding to the load. Bring on National writing font.

Lou
Aug 4, 2011

I totally agree with a national font and we should also have a national starting age as well. I know that I have saved so much money and gained some fabulous resources thanks to this website, I discovered it whilst still at uni and have told everyone about it with most joining up. Thank goodness you include the various fonts for us.

Sharron
Aug 4, 2011

I totally agree that we should have one national handwriting as well. It certainly is difficult enough for students to cope with changes from one school to another as well as state and then to cope with a change to their writing is another dilemma no matter what age. It definitely would make life easier for students but may be not for teachers if their handwriting style was not the one adopted. Oh well it would be just

another thing that teachers would have to fit into their time but if it is to benefit our students I say "Yes".

Kay
Aug 5, 2011

I agree we really need a National Identity it would be nice to say that's the Australian way not just that states way.

Tracy
WA

Tracy
Aug 6, 2011

Completely agree! Having everything streamlined across the country would make interstate teaching and learning sooooo much easier!

Sarah
Aug 6, 2011

I totally agree. I assumed a 'National Curriculum' would include a 'National' font. How silly am I!

Vicki V
Year 1 Teacher NSW

Vicki V
Aug 6, 2011

I agree with you. It will be so much easier for all staff and students and as you so it will save money. Great 2.00am ponderings. Keep it up, we so often meander along doing things because they've always been done without questioning the common sense of the situation.

Helen
Aug 6, 2011

Totally agree, having lived in WA all my life, I am comfortable with the rounded flowing style of print which is so natural, now studying and working in QLD it has a more boxed style which is really hard to master, the children I teach find the roundness of letters much easier than the box style. Which style would be the preferred choice if it was to be made national. The thoughts should go to the more natural style for children, life is hard enough lets keep something simple for them to learn.

Tania Luxford
Aug 7, 2011

Bravo!! I so agree with this. Australia is a big (vast) country but as a nation (population group) we are not big and yet we have all these handwriting styles. I never understood it and I have been saying/ thinking along your line of argument for years. So let's send these messages to ACARA since they set the overarching guidelines. But we

must also send these thoughts to each Minister of Education since ACARA has produced a set of guidelines that allows for differing interpretations per state. I attended a conference about the Science draft syllabus and the representative explained that The National Curriculum is the model on which NSW then has to write their syllabus for each KLA. Not all States have this situation. So, YES let's end this craziness, but let's get all the stakeholders, who make the decisions, talking . Otherwise it will be just a great idea.

marianne, Yr 2, NSW
Aug 7, 2011

I agree and have talked about this with much gusto for years. Especially after a stint teaching in Queensland. Have you considered that publishers make a lot of money out of the different fonts. The cost is to us as purchasers. I actually think that the entire curriculum and the accompanying docs should be Nationalised as well. We should get a lobby going for this . Facebook. Letters to the various State Governments and federal Ministers. Peter Garret may be on board/??

Elaine Coleman
Aug 7, 2011

I can only be another voice of support to all the comments. I went through 3 different styles as a student, then learnt a fourth one as a teacher. I gave up cursive in late high school as it was appalling to read and slow to do. Over time my print style became smoother – the letters joined when they needed to join and I didn't need to think about it.

Seeing so many teachers comment about their desire for a national font I'm surprised that the latest I'd heard from ACARA was that they didn't want to dictate a style. Perhaps it's just a few small-minded people at the state government level getting their noses out of joint instead.

Dave
Aug 12, 2011

From what I have read above and people I have spoken to about this issue it is "unanimous" that a NATIONAL FONT for writing is needed.

Margaret
Aug 12, 2011

Yes Yes Yes. I am an Ed Assist who has worked in NSW and WA. The frustration I see on the kids faces when they are trying to learn the WA font is clear. I have also seen Pre Prim kids learning the font one way only to be made to do it in a different way in year 1 within the same school – now thats

confusing!!!. Where do we start in getting the ball rolling for a national font to be used?

Kim
Aug 22, 2011

I totally agree with needing a national handwriting font! I am a Year 2 teacher at a school in a 'remote' location in Western Australia. We are close to local mines and as the employment of the mines fluctuates, so do our enrollments.

Each new child I receive in my class has been taught a different handwriting style in earlier years, and so we spend a substantial amount of time 'retraining' students. These new students come from interstate, but also within WA- showing that even within WA we have differing handwriting fonts. As some students leave due to employment reasons, more students arrive and we begin the handwriting process again!

Kate
Sep 28, 2011

interesting read.personally i would go for uniformity in all classes and handwriting format.

jaspreet
Nov 25, 2011

Since we all agree that we should have a national handwriting font – How do we get the "Powers that be" to do something about it ?

KAREN
Dec 19, 2011



Add a Comment

Required

Will not be published. Required

Add Comment

My Latest Tweet

No public Twitter messages.

Recent Comments

- tabata on Unpacking the Australian Curriculum
- Emily on Adobe PDF Reader email scam
- Katie on Australian National Handwriting Style
- Kapri on Australian National Handwriting Style

About Us

Copyright © 2013 Teach This Staffroom. [Visit our website](#)