

## Statement on Mathematics Education

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Revisions to the national curriculum in any learning area are an opportunity to reflect on current curriculum settings and their effectiveness in realising intended learning in classrooms across Australia. The Australian Academy of Science acknowledges that any proposed revisions to the national curriculum will bring about a range of perspectives and debate. The proposed revisions to the Australian Curriculum for Mathematics are no different.

The Academy's perspective on the proposed revisions is informed by its dual role as an organisation that develops and delivers professional learning for science and mathematics teachers and curriculum resources for students, and as the body that holds the National Committee for Mathematical Sciences (NCMS). The Academy recognises the importance of high-quality teaching to effectively prepare young people to be active, scientifically and mathematically literate citizens and members of the workforce.

The [mathematical sciences decadal plan](#) developed in 2016 by the NCMS to cover the decade 2016-2025 serves as an important reference point. The principles articulated in the decadal plan are the principles that inform the Academy's perspective on the proposed revisions to the Australian Curriculum.

The mathematical sciences decadal plan considers that "all young Australians need a strong foundational education in mathematics and statistics". The Academy recognises the critical importance of foundational knowledge and skills, and strongly supports their inclusion and emphasis in the national mathematics curriculum. Additionally, it is important that students engage in reasoning and problem-solving. It is through these activities that students can meaningfully consolidate, apply and extend their understanding, knowledge and skills and gain an appreciation of the elegance and the power of mathematics.