
Language

Lower Primary Syllabus



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Teachers, inspectors, tertiary educators, community members, representatives from non-government organisations and the Language Subject Advisory Committee have developed this syllabus through meetings, workshops and consultations.

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Secretary's Message

Education Reform has been in progress since 1992. The Education Reform has emphasised community-based schooling, the use of bilingual education and bridging to English from vernacular languages, the introduction of Elementary schools, the expansion of primary schooling to Grade 8 and increased access to secondary schools at Grades 9 and 10.

This syllabus is to be used by teachers to teach Grades 3, 4 and 5 students throughout Papua New Guinea. The syllabus builds upon concepts, skills and attitudes from Elementary and links to concepts, skills and attitudes in Upper Primary.

When students come to Grade 3 from Elementary 2 they have learned to read and write in the language they speak at home. Students' language abilities already gained in their home environments and Elementary must be respected, built upon and extended. The students' first language used in Elementary will continue to be the language of instruction while bridging to English takes place. This will allow students in Grade 3 to continue to develop their thinking, and decision-making skills as well as skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing in the language that they speak while acquiring English.

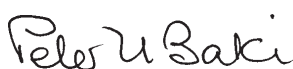
We learn language by using language. Language and culture help us to know who we are. Papua New Guinea is the only country in the world to recognise over 800 languages as official languages of the education system. Lower Primary education will help the students to know who they are by building on the knowledge from Elementary about their first language and culture.

Our students are entitled to a range of opportunities that will enable them to acquire the values and attitudes of a progressing nation. We need young people with the capacity to solve problems through reading and discussing widely. They should be able to contribute their ideas thoughtfully to make meaningful decisions.

Our villages and industries of the future will require young people with imagination and creativity. Literacy enables our students to gain information, think critically, develop ideas and form opinions to shape the development of our country.

This Language Syllabus encourages links with other subjects to provide language learning contexts. It respects our cultural diversity and traditions.

I commend and approve this syllabus as the official curriculum for Language to be used in all Lower Primary schools throughout Papua New Guinea.



PETER M. BAKI, CBE
Secretary for Education

