

3.1 National Curriculum Statements

The Constitution, Values, Nation building and the Curriculum

The preamble to the Constitution states that the aims of the Constitution are to:

- Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.
- Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.
- Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which Government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law.
- Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

The Manifesto on Values, Education and Democracy (Department of Education, 2001) identifies ten fundamental values of the Constitution:

- Democracy
- Social Justice and Equity
- Non-Racism and Non-Sexism
- Ubuntu (Human Dignity)
- An Open Society
- Accountability (Responsibility)
- Respect The Rule of Law
- Reconciliation

The Manifesto further identifies **16 strategies for familiarising young South Africans with the values of the Constitution**. These strategies find expression in the **Revised National Curriculum Statement (RNCS)** and include:

- Nurturing a culture of communication and participation in school.
- Role-modelling: promoting commitment as well as competence amongst educators.
- Ensuring that every South African is able to read, write, count and think.
- Infusing the classroom with a culture of human rights.
- Making Arts and Culture part of the curriculum.
- Putting history back into the curriculum.
- Learning about the rich diversity of cultures, beliefs and world views within which the unity of South Africa is manifested.
- Making multilingualism happen.
- Using sport to shape social bonds and nurture nation-building at schools.
- Ensuring equal access to education.
- Promoting anti-racism in schools.
- Freeing the potential of girls as well as boys.
- Dealing with HIV/AIDS and nurturing a culture of sexual and social responsibility.
- Making schools safe to learn and teach in and ensuring the rule of law.
- Promoting ethics and the environment.
- Nurturing the new patriotism, or affirming a common citizenship.

The Constitution expresses the nation's social values and its expectations of the roles, rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic South Africa. The Bill of Rights places pre-eminent value on equality, human dignity, life, and freedom and security of persons. These and other rights to freedom of religion and belief, expression and association, exist side-by-side with socio-economic rights. Each person has a right to freedom from poverty, homelessness, poor health and hunger.

The Revised National Curriculum Statement seeks to embody these values in the knowledge and skills it develops. It encourages amongst all learners an awareness and understanding of the rich diversity of cultures, beliefs and world views within which the unity of South Africa is manifested.