

# NZ CURRICULUM REFRESH

## **TE MĀTAIAHO | THE NEW ZEALAND CURRICULUM REFRESH UPDATE 2025**

Parts of the New Zealand Curriculum have undergone a review and refresh. The refreshed English and Mathematics and Statistics curricula were implemented from the beginning of 2025. Northcote Primary teaching staff are undergoing ongoing professional development during 2025 to understand the changes and to support best practice teaching and learning programmes within our school/kura.

The new Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum was the first to be implemented at the beginning of 2023.

The curriculum refreshes for other learning areas such as Science, Technology, Health and Physical Education are expected to be completed by 2027.

## WHY REFRESH?

Internationally, countries review their curricula regularly. New Zealand's curriculum has been in action since 2007, so a refresh was due. Knowledge of the science of learning (how the brain learns) and the importance of what skills 21st-century learners need has led to many changes. The refreshed curriculum is underpinned by 5 characteristics of how we learn:



1. We learn best when we experience a sense of belonging in the learning environment and feel valued and supported.

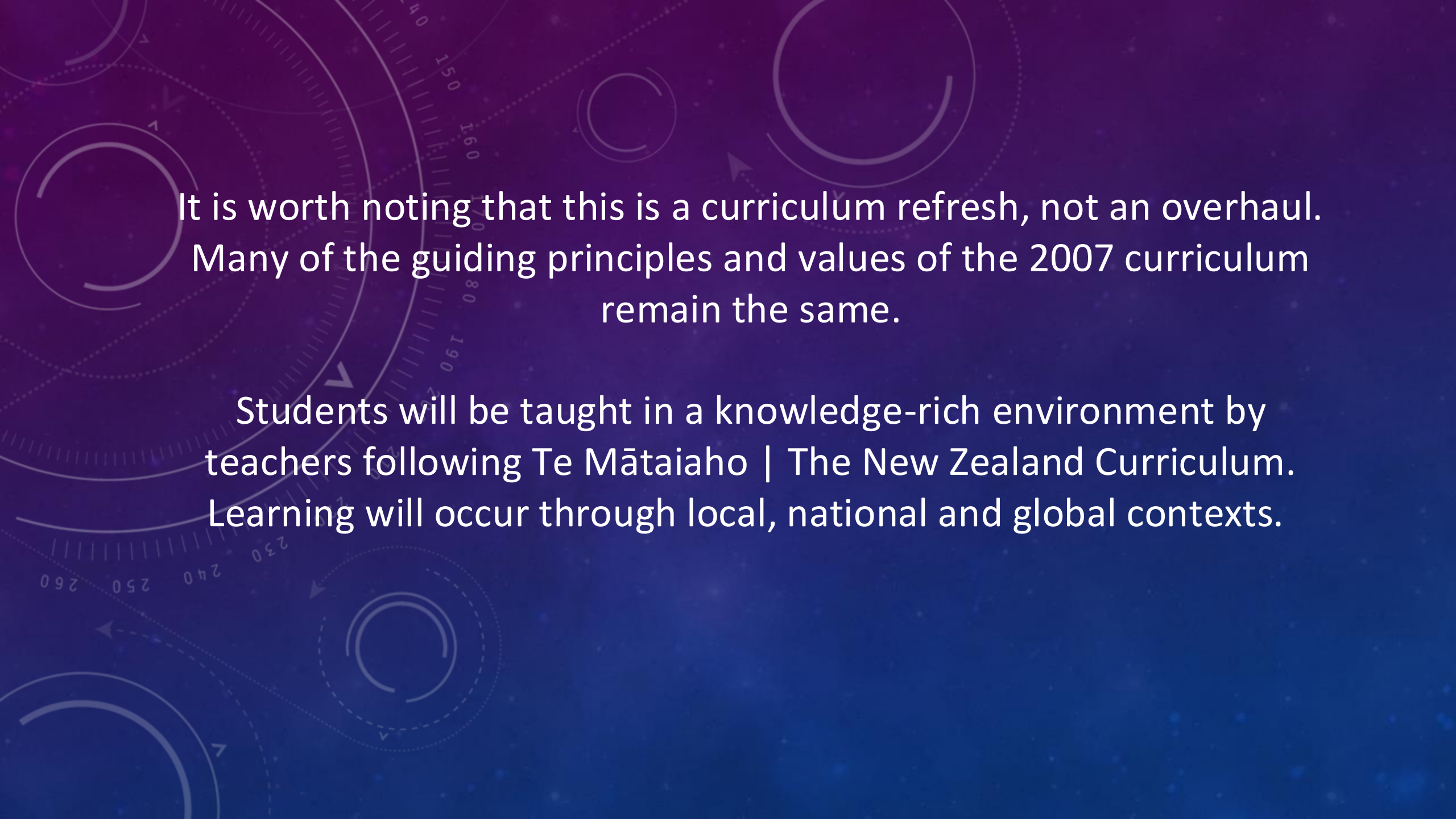
2. A new idea or concept is always interpreted through, and learned in association with, existing knowledge.

3. Establishing knowledge in a well-organised way in long-term memory reduces students' cognitive load when building on that knowledge. It also enables them to apply and transfer knowledge.

4. Our social and emotional wellbeing directly impacts our ability to learn new knowledge.

5. Motivation is critical for wellbeing and engagement in learning.





It is worth noting that this is a curriculum refresh, not an overhaul.  
Many of the guiding principles and values of the 2007 curriculum  
remain the same.

Students will be taught in a knowledge-rich environment by  
teachers following Te Mātaiaho | The New Zealand Curriculum.  
Learning will occur through local, national and global contexts.

## WHAT'S CHANGED?

All new learning areas now follow the Understand, Know, Do (UKD) model. These 3 aspects are woven together so learning builds on previous understanding and is purposeful and relevant.

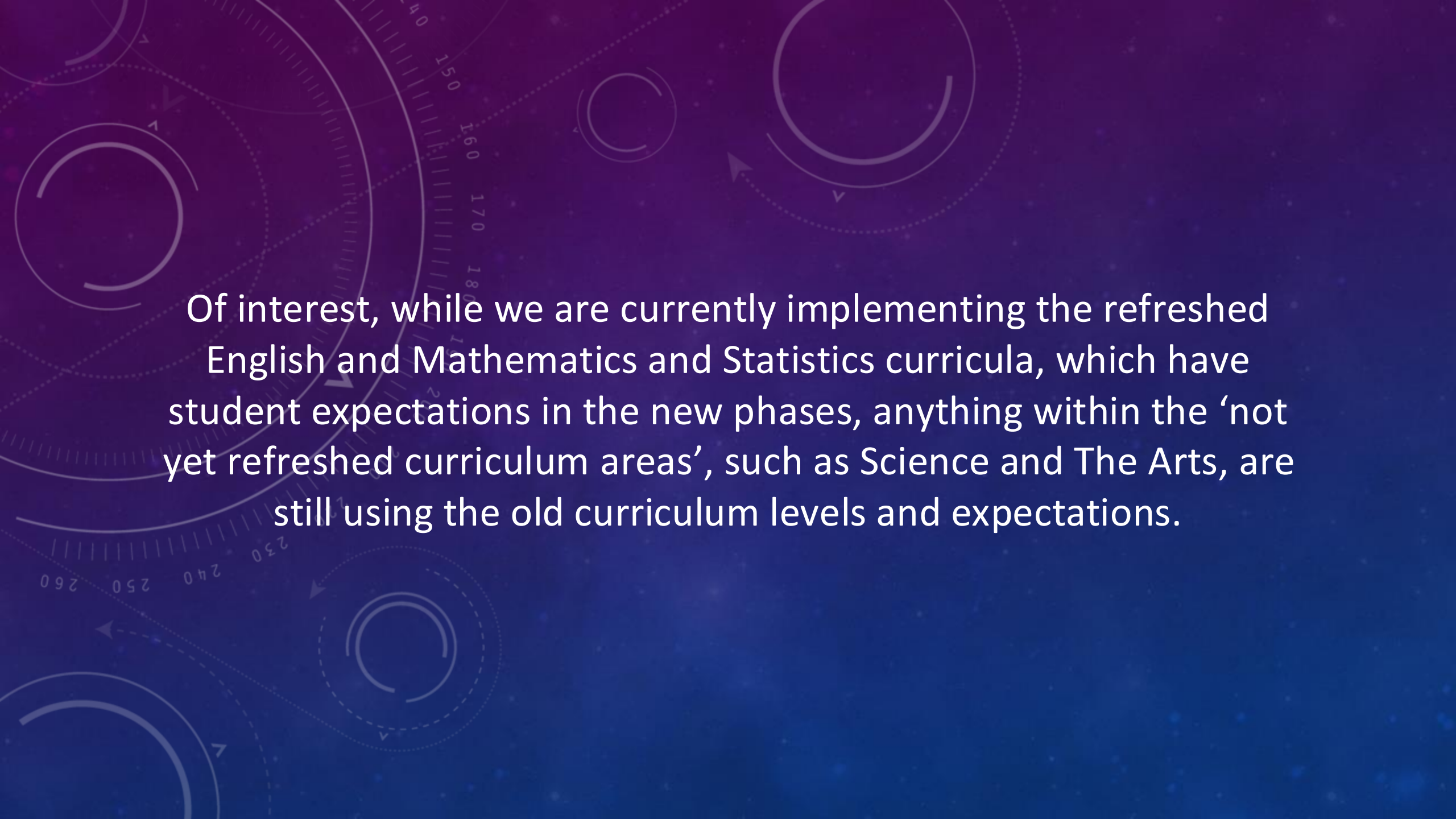
As each curriculum area is refreshed we will move from expectation levels (level 1, 2, 3 ...) to ***phases of learning***:

**Phase 1 (years 0-3):** thriving in environments rich in literacy and numeracy

**Phase 2 (year 4-6):** expanding horizons of knowledge and collaborating

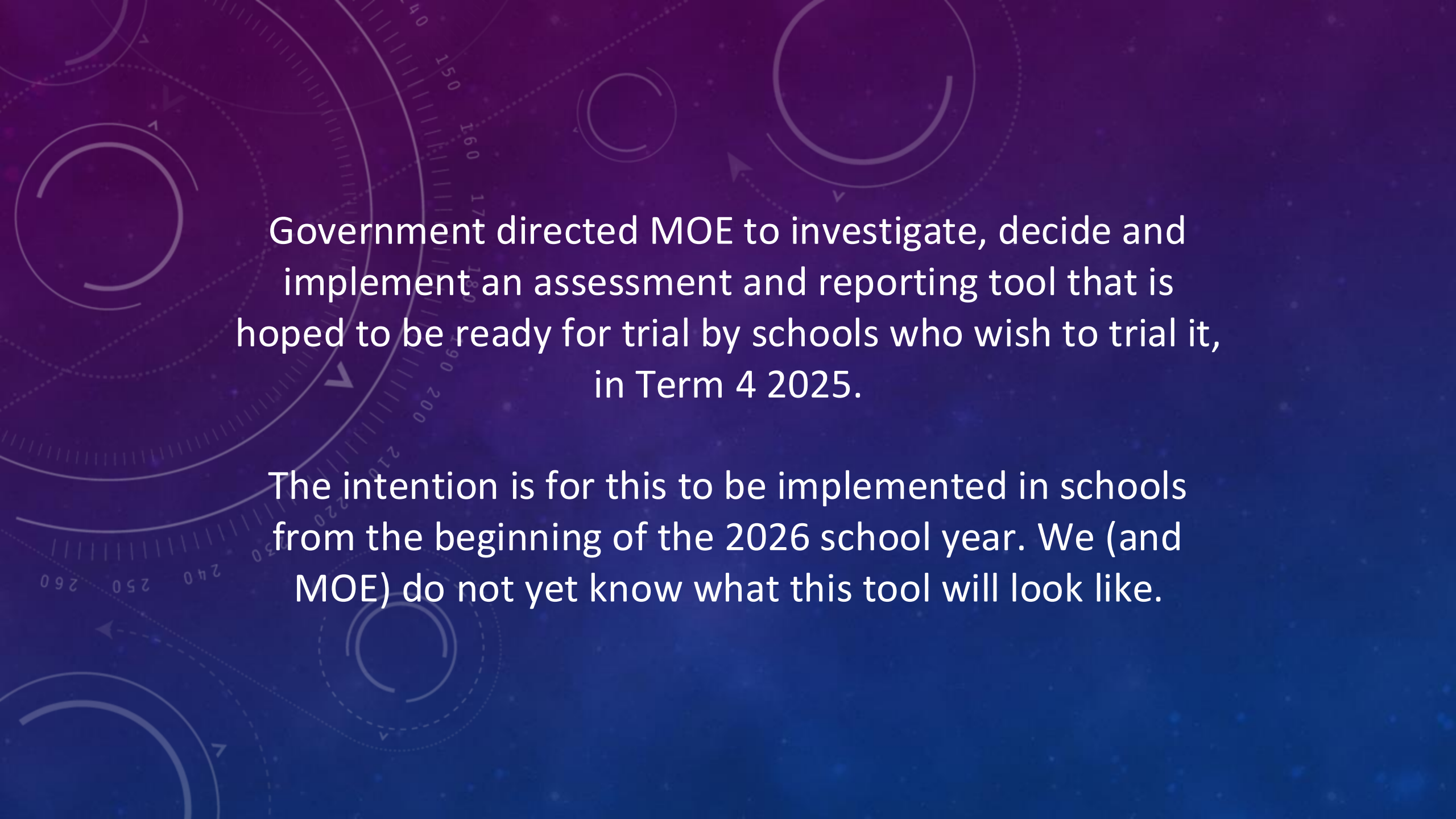
**Phase 3 (years 7-8):** seeing ourselves in the wider world and advocating with and for others

Phases 4 onwards will be covered in secondary school.



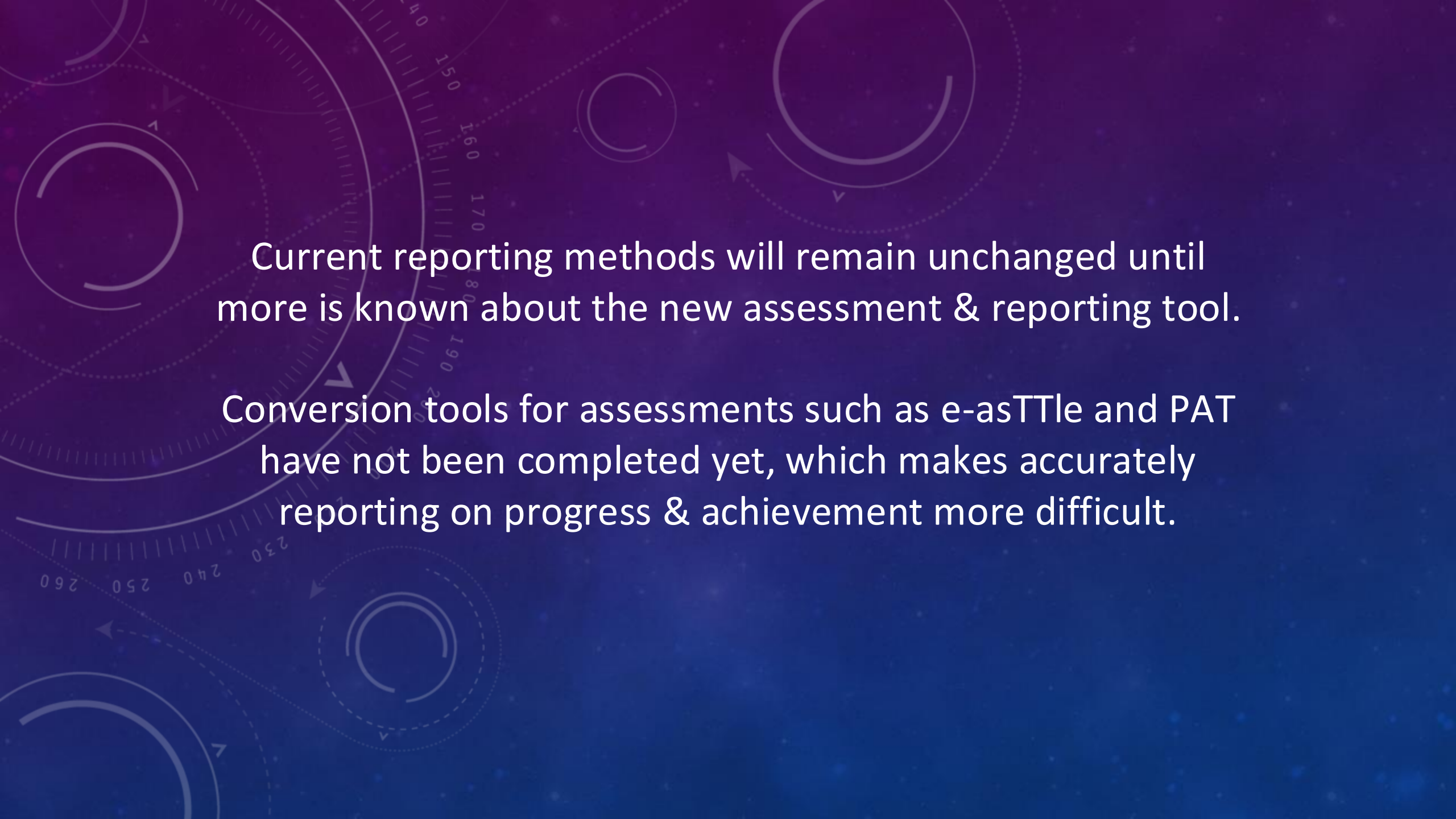
Of interest, while we are currently implementing the refreshed English and Mathematics and Statistics curricula, which have student expectations in the new phases, anything within the ‘not yet refreshed curriculum areas’, such as Science and The Arts, are still using the old curriculum levels and expectations.





Government directed MOE to investigate, decide and implement an assessment and reporting tool that is hoped to be ready for trial by schools who wish to trial it, in Term 4 2025.

The intention is for this to be implemented in schools from the beginning of the 2026 school year. We (and MOE) do not yet know what this tool will look like.



Current reporting methods will remain unchanged until more is known about the new assessment & reporting tool.

Conversion tools for assessments such as e-asTTle and PAT have not been completed yet, which makes accurately reporting on progress & achievement more difficult.

## RESOURCES BEING USED

### Structured Literacy

Year 0-2 - Yolanda Soryl Phonics (5years)

Year 3-6 - Liz Kane 'The Code' (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

### Structural Approach to Mathematics

Maths No Problem (started mid term 2)

Year level specific textbooks/workbooks - relate to previous

Mathematics curriculum expectations

Workbooks and Texts should be updated to refreshed  
curriculum 2026

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue geometric elements: concentric circles, arcs, and a large circular scale with numerical markings (40, 150, 160, 170, 180, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) and arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

The following is from the Minister and MOE speaks to the differences parents may expect to see with the changes in progress & expectations under the refreshed curriculum.



# ***Statement (draft) from Ministry of Education/Minister to Support Schools with Reporting to Parents***

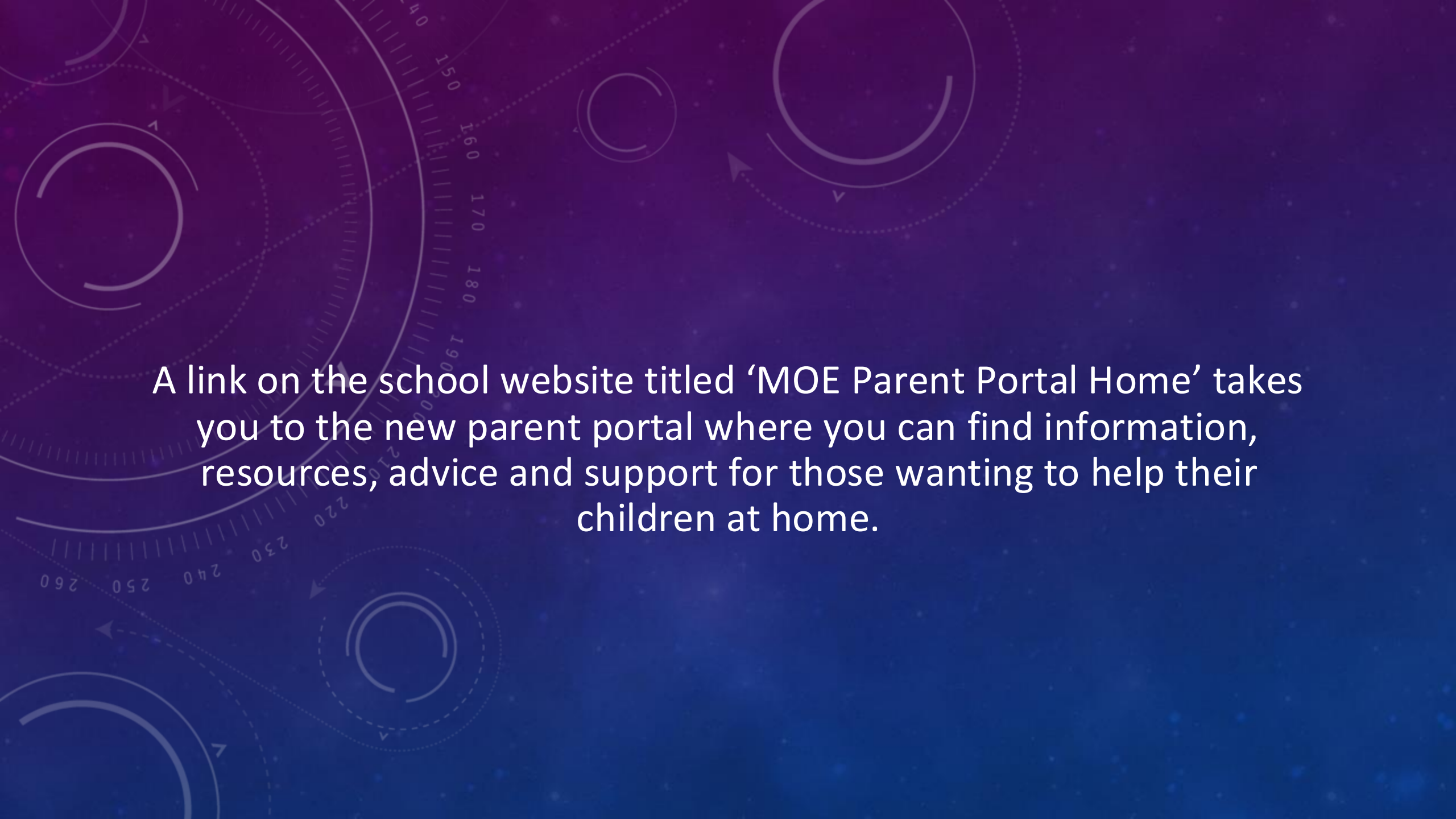
Te Poutohu Curriculum Centre

As part of our focus on lifting student achievement we have introduced new, knowledge-rich and internationally-comparable curriculum this year for Maths in Years 0-8 and English in Years 0-6, and Te Reo Rangatira Years 0-6 and Pangarau Years 0-8 wahanga ako.

This means we are currently changing from the old to the new curriculum. We want to acknowledge that schools and kura will only have been using the new curricula from the start of 2025, which includes new teaching and assessment methods and content.

Because of this you could see a change in your child's progress or achievement compared to previous years which may be the result of changes in the curriculum expectations for your child's year level. If you have concerns or questions about your child's achievement, we strongly suggest you talk with your child's teacher or kaiako. They will also have used their own observations, classroom tasks and other tests to report on the progress your child is making.



The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue geometric elements: concentric circles of varying sizes, some with dashed outlines, and a large circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Some of the circles have small arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

A link on the school website titled 'MOE Parent Portal Home' takes you to the new parent portal where you can find information, resources, advice and support for those wanting to help their children at home.

The background is a gradient from dark purple at the top to deep blue at the bottom, speckled with white stars. On the left side, there are several concentric circular patterns. One large circle has a scale from 140 to 260 in increments of 10, with tick marks. Other circles have dashed lines and arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The text "Thank You." is centered in the upper right area.

Thank You.