

# OBE INFO

FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM SERVICES MARCH 2004

## F E T ADVOCACY

Advocacy for the roll-out of the National Curriculum Statement for FET (Schools) will be starting for officials of the department during March. This will be extended to the principals, SMTs and SGBs from April onwards. Once all stakeholders in the system have been properly informed of the changes, schools will be able to start adjusting subject packages where necessary. An important issue to bear in mind is that schools in clusters should co-operate so that in a particular town a wide range of subject options can be established without unnecessary repetition from one school to the next. Obviously one would hope to achieve this by negotiation. In due course, all schools offering FET will have to

## TIMETABLING IN THE INTERMEDIATE PHASE

### GENERIC ISSUES UNDERLYING TIMETABLING

With the implementation of the RNCS from this year in the Foundation Phase and from 2005 in the Intermediate Phase, one should start preparing for the timetabling that must take place later this year. When drawing up a timetable the following should be considered:

### **PRINCIPLE ONE – FOLLOW NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

For Grades 4, 5 and 6 this is **26 hours, 30 minutes per week** which is equal to 5 hours and 20 minutes of tuition per day. This is allocated as follows per Learning Area:

Languages	25%	= 80 minutes per day = 400 minutes per week
Mathematics	18%	= 60 minutes per day = 300 minutes per week
Natural Sciences	13%	= 40 minutes per day = 200 minutes per week
Social Sciences	12%	= 40 minutes per day = 200 minutes per week
Tech	8%	= 25 minutes per day = 125 minutes per week
EMS	8%	= 25 minutes per day = 125 minutes per week
LO	8%	= 25 minutes per day = 125 minutes per week
A&C	8%	= 25 minutes per day = 125 minutes per week

**The above totals 320 minutes per day = 5 hours 20 minutes per day.**

It thus follows that every learning area must receive its rightful time on the timetable.

### **PRINCIPLE TWO – LONGER PERIODS**

It is important when dealing with an Outcomes Based approach that sufficient time be given to learners as it takes longer to **demonstrate and do** than to simply absorb and reproduce. Thus periods should be longer rather than shorter. The traditional 30 minute period not only wastes a great deal of time with the changing from one period to the next, but does not give either the educator or the learner enough time.

### PRACTICAL TIMETABLE OPTIONS

- The timetable options that follow do not specify the following:
  - ✓ The starting time of the school – this is the responsibility of the school.
  - ✓ Assemblies and break times. The school should decide on these in consultation with the SGB and the SMD.
- All timetable options apply equally well to Grade 7 because the time allocated for the day and the week as well as the time weighting for the Learning Areas is the same from Grade 4 up to and including Grade 7 in the RNCS. The time weighting for Learning Areas stays the same for Grades 8 and 9 but the minimum tuition time increases by an hour to 27 hours 30 minutes.
- All the options that follow are merely guidelines – individual schools should reshuffle periods to suit their needs (clearly Mathematics should not occupy the first period every day). The examples given are in fact suggested patterns suitable for adaptation.
- The options that have been given are based on the school offering eight



## OPTION TWO

This would consist of days with a combination of 50 minute periods and 30 minute periods but would go beyond the minimum of 5 hours and 20 minutes per day – it would be 5 hours 30 minutes per day for 4 days and 5 hours for the fifth day – thus 20 minutes more than the minimum for the week. This timetable would be as follows:

Periods	Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
1	50 min	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
2	50 min	Lang	Lang	Lang	Lang	Maths
3	50 min	SS	Lang	Lang	Lang	Lang
4	50 min	EMS	SS	LO	SS	SS
5	50 min	NS	NS	NS	EMS	NS
6	50 min	A&C	Tech	A&C	LO	Tech
7	30 min	LO	A&C	EMS	Tech	

This would give a time division follows:

<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>300 minutes (6 x 50)</b>
<b>Languages</b>	<b>400 minutes (8 x 50)</b>
<b>NS</b>	<b>200 minutes (4 x 50)</b>
<b>SS</b>	<b>200 minutes (4 x 50)</b>
<b>Tech</b>	<b>130 minutes (2 x 50 + 1 x 30)</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>130 minutes</b>
<b>LO</b>	<b>130 minutes</b>
<b>A&amp;C</b>	<b>130 minutes</b>

The blanked out square in the table could be used for Professional Working Group meetings of educators as the learners have completed the required minimum time for tuition.

### Note the following:

- ✓ Mathematics, Languages, Natural Science and Social Sciences receive time in the correct proportion according to the national minimum requirements.
- ✓ The allocation for Technology, Economic and Management Sciences, Life Orientation and Arts and Culture is five minutes longer than the minimum national requirement.

### **DEALING WITH LANGUAGES:**

The periods are too short to be broken into 2, so we are dealing with EIGHT periods for Languages.

The suggested division for languages is as follows:

#### 1) At a school where the Home Language is the LoLT for the learners:

- ✓ Home Language 4 periods
- ✓ First Additional Language 3 periods
- ✓ Second Additional Language 1 period

### OPTION THREE

This would consist of days with seven 40 minute periods and one 45 minute period, but would go beyond the minimum of 5 hours and 20 minutes per day – it would be 5 hours 25 minutes per day (25 minutes above the minimum for the week).

Periods	Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
1	40 min	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
2	40 min	Lang	Maths	Lang	Maths	Maths
3	40 min	Lang	Lang	Lang	Lang	Lang
4	40 min	NS	Lang	SS	Lang	Lang
5	40 min	A&C	SS	SS	NS	SS
6	40 min	EMS	Tech	LO	NS	Tech
7	40 min	SS	NS	A&C	EMS	LO
8	45 min	Tech	EMS	A&C	LO	NS

This would give a time division as follows:

<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>320 minutes (8 x 40)</b>
<b>Languages</b>	<b>400 minutes (10 x 40)</b>
<b>NS</b>	<b>205 minutes (4 x 40 + 1 x 45)</b>
<b>SS</b>	<b>200 minutes (5 x 40)</b>
<b>Tech</b>	<b>125 minutes (2 x 40 + 1 x 45)</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>125 minutes</b>
<b>LO</b>	<b>125 minutes</b>
<b>A&amp;C</b>	<b>125 minutes</b>

**Note the following:**

- ✓ Mathematics has 20 minutes per week more than the national minimum
- ✓ All the other Learning Areas receive the national minimum requirements in the correct proportion.

#### **DEALING WITH LANGUAGES:**

The periods are too short to be broken into 2, so we are dealing with TEN periods for Languages.

The suggested division for languages is as follows:

**1) At a school where the Home Language is the LoLT for the learners:**

- ✓ Home Language 5 periods
- ✓ First Additional Language 3 periods
- ✓ Second Additional Language 2 periods

**2) At a school where the LoLT is mostly the First Additional Language:**

- ✓ Home Language 4 periods
- ✓ First Additional Language 4 periods
- ✓ Second Additional Language 2 periods

**DON'T HESITATE TO PHONE 0832981119 OR 051- 4054852 FOR ANSWERS TO ANY CURRICULUM-RELATED QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH OBE. REGARD THESE AS TROUBLE-SHOOTING NUMBERS AND USE THEM ACCORDINGLY.**