

The Growing Imperative for Typing Skills in Schools



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“In the past generation we have seen a transition from typing being the preserve of professional secretaries to a critical main-stream skill for every member of the community. This change is rapidly being reflected in curriculum statements, educational practice and community expectations.”

Graham East - Educationalist and EdAlive MD

The critical need for typing skills

Typing - now a key life skill

Children are now working with keyboards and touch screens on iPads before they can walk! This may help their learning but in the process they can develop very poor keyboard skills. The way they learn to interact with the keyboard by pointing and poking stays the same as they grow and is a huge constraint on their learning and productivity. Accurate and rapid keyboarding skills are vital for today's learners and tomorrow's earners.

Kids who can touch type are at a massive advantage at school and in life.

Typing - now a key literacy skill

We teach students handwriting skills so that as their confidence grows they think less about what their fingers are doing and more about what they want to write and the textual structures that they are creating.

We teach typing skills so that students' fingers move so fluidly over the keyboard that their brain space is used on the construction of the text rather than thinking about which key to press next and then looking at the keyboard to find it.

Written or typed output is the outworking of literacy. Automaticity in both is essential in today's world.

Typing - for NAPLAN Online

We have constant feedback from teachers regarding the necessity for students to have good typing skills to perform at their best in the NAPLAN Online typewritten sections.

The Australian Curriculum - QLD, SA, WA, NT, ACT, TAS

ACELY1654, ACELA1433, ACTDIK001, ACTDIK007.

The Australian Curriculum focuses primarily on the Literacy and Digital Technology outcomes that can be achieved whilst assuming that the students have competent Keyboarding skills. The teaching of keyboarding and touch typing is implicit, with an explicit expectation that competent typing skills are taught.

Victoria Curriculum

VCELY163, VCELA037, VCDTDS007, VCELA142, VCDTDS019, VCDTDS013

NSW Syllabus

The typing outcomes in the New South Wales Syllabus are found in the Digital Text Production Section of the K-6 English Syllabus and explicitly requires the practise of keyboard skills although no acceptable standard is set. The assumption is that these outcomes are achieved through the explicit teaching of touch typing.

The ACARA Achievement Standards

Achievement Standards HwK1-8 make the teaching of keyboard skills explicit and the standard to be achieved is not possible without the intentional teaching of touch typing skills.

The HSC - Online skills tests

State-by-State an online test component is being added to the HSC. These online tests focus on basic skills and require substantial typed input. Students without adequate typing skills will be at a significant disadvantage in these tests. Online tests are either in place or coming to NSW, VIC, SA, WA.



For more information go to <https://wp.me/P8x81k-o7>

ACARA Achievement Standards - Keyboarding

In 2018 ACARA defined new Achievement Standards within the Literacy Progression.

The new Standards relate to the Writing Element and specifically the Handwriting and Keyboarding Sub Element and require the fluency, automaticity and accuracy in keyboarding that can only be attained by touch typing.

The Handwriting and Keyboarding standards embody the principles of the Australian Curriculum. These progressions indicate the minimum standards that Australian Schools should incorporate in their teaching. For Victoria and NSW these progressions indicate the base skill level to be embodied in the relevant State-based curricula built on the base of the Australian Curriculum.

The following table focuses on the Keyboarding dimension of the HwK Progression.

For more information [click here](#)

Year Level	Sub Element	Keyboarding descriptors	Our recommendation
Preschool	HwK1	NA	
Foundation	HwK2	NA	
	HwK3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> writes or types a few words uses numeral keys 	
Year 1	HwK4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates keyboarding skills by typing short letter clusters and short common words as single units (er, ing, the, my) types using spaces between words and sentence punctuation 	Typing Tournament Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keyboard Practice Levels 1 to 4
Years 1 & 2	HwK5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses some features of text editing applications recognises and uses keys to show more complex punctuation or symbols 	
Year 3	HwK6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> begins to develop quick finger action when keying fluently handwrites and types to produce a range of texts 	Typing Tournament Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels 1 to 8
Year 4	HwK7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a range of digital applications to compose and edit self-corrects using appropriate keyboard and screen functions 	Typing Tournament Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels 1 to 16
Years 5 & 6	HwK8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates automaticity (implies accuracy) when using keyboarding and screen functions 	Typing Tournament Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels 1 to 16 Building speeds beyond 22 WPM
	Overall	For students to attain fluency, automaticity and accuracy at speed using a keyboard they must be able to touch type . Any lesser skill will see one or the other of these outcomes compromised.	

TYPING TOURNAMENT ONLINE

TypingTournament.com

The complete, 10-finger typing course for your school

- ✓ Used in thousands of Australian schools
- ✓ Over 1,000,000 words typed every day
- ✓ Over 500,000,000 words typed to date
- ✓ Supports the **ACARA Literacy Achievement Standards**
- ✓ Regular **Typing Challenges** to motivate students



- * Jump right in at your existing skill level
- * Progressively introduces the whole keyboard
- * Focused Lessons, Games & Drills tied to the keys being learned
- * Graded Tests & Printable Certificates
- * Teaches good posture and typing habits
- * Each child can progress at their own pace
- * Use anywhere, anytime, any device



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