



## **Analysis of the 2025 KICD Curriculum Changes for Lower Primary School (Grades 1, 2 and 3)**

### **Introduction**

Following the 2024 rationalisation of the curriculum, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) made further changes to the curriculum in time for the 2025 school year. These changes affect the way planning, teaching and evaluation is done.

The 2025 curriculum changes introduced by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for Grades 1, 2, and 3 represent a refinement of the competency-based approach, emphasizing digital literacy, experiential learning, and real-world applications. The modifications primarily impact teaching methodologies, assessment models, and the integration of contemporary issues within the learning areas.

This document is prepared by Verb Education's CBC App Team. The CBC App is an assessment record-keeping and reporting tool designed to simplify work for teachers and school administrators in the implementation of CBC.

### **1. Digital and Technology Integration**

Across all grades, the curriculum incorporates digital literacy and interactive learning experiences. Mathematics now includes digital numeracy tools and simulations, while English and Kiswahili integrate multimedia storytelling and collaborative learning platforms. In Creative Activities, students engage with digital music tools, animation, and performance recording.

Religious Education in Grades 2 and 3 introduces digital Bible study tools, online ethical discussions, and gamified assessments. Additionally, Islamic Religious Education for Grade 3 now features digital memorization tools and leadership-based learning experiences.

### **2. Shift Towards Competency-Based and Experiential Learning**

Learning areas now emphasize practical applications and real-world problem-solving. English in all three grades introduces implicit grammar learning, postponing explicit instruction until Grade 4, allowing for a more natural and immersive language acquisition

process. Mathematics and Environmental Activities integrate STEM-based problem-solving approaches, while Religious Education introduces leadership training and social justice discussions.

Students in Environmental Activities engage in hands-on sustainability projects, climate action themes, and digital environmental tracking. Creative Activities now encourage collaborative projects, digital self-expression, and multimedia art integration.

### **3. Evolution of Assessment Methods**

The 2025 curriculum moves away from traditional rote-based assessments, adopting interactive, project-based, and digital evaluations. English and Kiswahili integrate self-assessment, peer collaboration, and comprehension challenges. Mathematics introduces competency-based assessment models, including financial literacy exercises and applied problem-solving tests.

Religious Education incorporates self-reflection exercises, ethical debates, and digital assessments. Creative Activities in all grades now include digital portfolios, group performance evaluations, and technology-assisted project presentations.

### **4. Integration of Contemporary Issues**

The revised curriculum embeds gender inclusivity, digital responsibility, environmental conservation, and child rights awareness into all Learning Areas. For example:

- English incorporates global competencies and international awareness.
- Kiswahili includes cultural diversity appreciation and social responsibility themes.
- Environmental Activities strengthen climate change and sustainability topics.
- Religious Education in Grades 2 and 3 introduces ethical digital behavior and faith-based social justice discussions.

## **Comparison of the 2024 vs. 2025 Lower Primary Curriculum**

### **English**

- 2024: Focused on reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- 2025: Adds implicit grammar learning, multimedia engagement, and peer collaboration.
- Assessment Shift: Moves from traditional comprehension tests to interactive literacy activities and digital self-evaluations.

### **Kiswahili**

- 2024: Focused on oral fluency, comprehension, and writing.
- 2025: Expands language immersion, experiential learning, and environmental awareness themes.
- Assessment Shift: Introduces digital storytelling, peer reviews, and cultural appreciation exercises.

### **Mathematics**

- 2024: Emphasized numeracy, logical reasoning, and problem-solving.
- 2025: Strengthens real-world applications, sustainability themes, and STEM integration.
- Assessment Shift: Incorporates interactive digital assessments and financial literacy applications.

### **Environmental Activities**

- 2024: Covered hygiene, nutrition, and environmental awareness.
- 2025: Expands focus on climate change, sustainability, and conservation projects.
- Assessment Shift: Moves to digital environmental tracking and project-based evaluations.

### **Creative Activities**

- 2024: Included art, music, and physical activities.
- 2025: Enhances digital arts, creative coding, and collaborative expression.
- Assessment Shift: Uses digital portfolios, group performances, and multimedia projects.

### **Religious Education (Christian and Islamic)**

- 2024: Focused on faith-based teachings, moral values, and traditional storytelling.
- 2025: Introduces digital Bible studies, leadership training, and social justice discussions.
- Assessment Shift: Adopts interactive quizzes, ethical debates, and gamified learning approaches.