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**PECULIARITIES OF ORGANIZING THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AT  
NUS DURING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS  
ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ ОСВІТНЬОГО ПРОЦЕСУ У НУШ НА УРОКАХ  
АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ**

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**Abstract.** *The article analyzes the peculiarities of organizing the educational process within the New Ukrainian School (NUS) framework in English language lessons. The author examines the reasons for initiating the NUS reform, its concept and main components, the professional training of English language teachers, the stages of reform implementation, and the national standards and regulatory documents governing the educational process. The article emphasizes the attention given to the material and technical support of schools for the new generation, the availability of online resources to support all participants in the educational process, and the collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the British Council in the field of reforming the national education system.*

**Keywords:** *NUS, secondary school, educational process, English, peculiarities, reform, standards.*

**Introduction.**

In 2015, Ukraine ranked 38th out of 76 countries in the largest-ever ranking of secondary schools worldwide. According to the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine (2016), 75.6% of Ukrainians (90.1% of teachers and 81.5% of students) supported reforming national education.

The modern education system has faced a global problem: Ukrainian schools do not adequately prepare students for successful self-realization despite receiving comprehensive knowledge in subjects covered by educational standards and the curriculum. The concept of the New Ukrainian School is based on national standards, which state that “the purpose of complete general secondary education is the comprehensive development, upbringing, and socialization of a personality capable of living in society and civilized interaction with nature, with a desire for self-improvement and lifelong learning, ready for conscious life choices, self-realization, responsibility, work, and civic engagement” [3]. As a result, the fundamental reform of the Ministry of Education and Science was the NUS reform.

**Main text.**

Reform implementation schedule includes:

Phase I (2016-2018). The primary schools start to work according to the new competency-based educational standards (as envisaged by the Draft Law of Ukraine “About Education” – 2018).

Phase II (2019-2022). Basic school starts to work according to the new competency-based educational standards (as envisaged by the Draft Law of Ukraine “About Education”) – 2022.



Phase III (2023-2029) The profession-oriented school starts to operate according to the new competency-based educational standards (as envisaged by the Draft Law of Ukraine “About Education”) not later than 2027.

The formula of the New Ukrainian School includes:

- child-centeredness;
- competency-based content of education;
- motivated and qualified teacher;
- partnership pedagogy;
- modern educational environment, inclusive education;
- fair funding, equal access;
- autonomy of schools, quality assurance;
- new school structure (including a 3-year specialized school);
- a cross-cutting process of education based on values [4].

According to the Law “About Education”, complete general secondary education has three levels: primary, basic, and specialized secondary education. Therefore, within the framework of general secondary education reform, the following standards are being developed:

- National Standards of Primary Education (2018),
- National Standards of Basic Secondary Education (2020),
- National Standards of Specialized Secondary Education (in progress).

The NUS formula consists of nine key elements:

1. *Key competencies* for successful self-realization in life, learning, and work:
  - Communication in the national language (and mother tongue, if different).
  - Communication in foreign languages.
  - Mathematical literacy.
  - Competencies Science and Technologies.
  - ICT and digital competencies.
  - Lifelong learning skills.
  - Sense of entrepreneurship.
  - Social and civic competencies.
  - Cultural awareness.
  - Environmental awareness and healthy lifestyle.

The competency of “communication in foreign languages” includes “the ability to properly understand spoken and written content in a foreign language, to express and interpret concepts, thoughts, feelings, facts, and opinions orally and in writing (through listening, speaking, reading, and writing) across a wide range of social and cultural contexts – the ability to mediate and engage in intercultural communication” [4, p.11].

2. *Partnership pedagogy* is based on communication, interaction, and cooperation between teachers, students, and parents; shared goals, engaged participants in the educational process, and responsibility for outcomes.

3. *Motivated teachers* with new roles: coach, facilitator, tutor, and moderator in the child’s educational trajectory.

4. *Focus on the pupil*, i.e., a personalized learning model; consideration of age-specific characteristics, physical, mental, and cognitive development of children, etc.



5. *The Ukrainian identity.* The educational process is an integral part of the entire educational process, oriented towards the development of universal values and contributes to the awareness of Ukrainian identity, etc.

6. *The new structure* is a Primary education (four years), Basic secondary education at secondary schools (five years), and Specialized secondary education at focused high schools or vocational education and training centers (three years).

7. *School autonomy and quality of education.* Schools can independently develop educational programs, create curricula and syllabi for subjects (including English), choose textbooks and teaching methods, develop educational material bases, etc., but they are also responsible for providing educational services.

8. *Equitable funding and equal access* (transparency of funding, equalizing access to quality education in different regions and settlements).

9. *Contemporary educational environment.* The proportion of project, teamwork, and group activities in the pedagogical process is increasing, the options for organizing educational space are diversified, and new IT technologies, multimedia tools, etc., are used.

A distinctive feature of organizing the educational process in English language lessons in the NUS is that the British Council in Ukraine, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science, participated in training English language teachers initially for primary and later for secondary classes in the NUS.

In the initial stage of the reform, which began in 2018 with primary classes, an educational program called “Teaching English in 1-2 Grades” was developed for foreign language teachers across Ukraine. The program was created by an organizational committee composed of the British Council in Ukraine, the Goethe Institute, and the French Embassy in Ukraine. A pilot project was launched in 100 schools in Ukraine involving 200 English language teachers. Intensive training involved 25 methodologists from various educational institutions with postgraduate pedagogical education. This training aimed to develop professional skills and support all English language teachers starting to work in primary classes under the reform in their region. The online component of this training was the Cambridge online course “Communicative Language Teaching in Primary School”. As a result of the first phase of the project, 195 English language teachers were trained as change agents, who became trainers for around 18,000 English language teachers (out of a total of 33,000) across the country. These teachers began teaching English to first graders as part of the NUS in 2018 [5]. Subsequently, a program for English language teachers of grades 5-9 was launched, offering a seven-week course on the British Council platform using synchronous and asynchronous methods (access to self-paced online courses and participation in forum discussions).

In the summer of 2023, English teachers of grades 7-9 had the opportunity to take the course "Teaching English in a New Context" on the online platform Future English Online Teacher Community [1]. This course combines synchronous and asynchronous online interaction. It aims to develop skills for distance English language teaching, deepen understanding of digital literacy and new technologies, and simultaneously make learning exciting and interactive for students.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine’s website provides free



online resources for English Language teachers and students from leading publishers such as MM Publications, National Geographic Learning, Oxford University Press, Pearson, Express Publishing, and Macmillan Life Skills [2].

Another feature of English language lessons in the NUS is a communicative approach to teaching. In the communicative approach, which involves learning a language not as just another subject but as a means of communication, vocabulary and grammar become tools that students must master to achieve a certain level of language development and competencies. British Council experts in Ukraine recommend using the following tools of the communicative approach:

- Active use of pair and group work.
- Achieving specific expected results, which are reflected in the lesson plan.
- Involving children in material selection, assessment, material explanation, etc.
- Extensive use of visual aids and authentic additional materials.
- Use of modern digital tools [6].

### **Conclusion.**

So, organizing the educational process in English language lessons in the New Ukrainian School has its specifics. In 2023, secondary education institutions' sixth-grade students began studying under the NUS program. The primary regulatory documents for NUS teachers include the Law "About Education", National Education Standards, the Concept of the New Ukrainian School, and documents based on them. It is worth noting that secondary education institutions independently determine the course of the educational process, focusing on forming key and subject competencies of education recipients. Importantly, all NUS English language teachers have undergone training programs developed by the British Council in Ukraine with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

The electronic platform "New Ukrainian School" provides necessary informational, methodological, and advisory support for parents, teachers, and students and serves as a virtual space for communication. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine's website offers free access to online resources from leading international publishers.

Additionally, among the specifics of organizing English language lessons in the NUS, one can mention the use of a communicative approach in learning a foreign language; active use of modern digital tools, authentic textual, audio, and video materials; access to online resources; the opportunity to work with textbooks of the new generation provided to all participants in the educational process; the use by teachers of various forms and methods of work in the classroom; mandatory feedback; increasing students' motivation for independent work and critical analysis of material; preparing education recipients for successful self-realization in life, and so on.

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**Анотація.** У статті проаналізовано особливості організації навчального процесу в рамках Нової української школи (НУШ) на уроках англійської мови. Автор розглядає причини започаткування реформи НУШ, її концепцію та ключові складові, професійну підготовку вчителів англійської мови, етапи впровадження реформи, а також державні стандарти та нормативні документи, що регулюють освітній процес. У статті акцентується увага на матеріально-технічному забезпеченні шкіл нового покоління, наявності онлайн ресурсів для підтримки всіх учасників освітнього процесу, а також співпраці Міністерства освіти і науки України з Британською Радою у сфері реформування вітчизняної освіти.

**Ключові слова:** НУШ, заклад загальної середньої освіти, освітній процес, англійська мова, особливості, реформа, стандарти.