

Assessment in the National Curriculum

Introduction

We believe that effective assessment provides information to improve teaching and learning. We give learners regular feedback on their learning so that they understand what it is that they need to do better. This allows us to base our lesson plans on a detailed knowledge of each pupil. We give parents regular written and verbal reports on their child's progress so that teachers, children and parents are all working together to raise standards for all our children. Currently we are in a transition period, since the removal of National Curriculum Levels descriptors and the implementation of the New Curriculum. During this period of transition (Autumn 2014) we will continue to use the existing national curriculum levels and work in partnership with external agencies to design a new assessment tool. Our school statement needs to be read in conjunction with our Assessment and Feedback policies.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of assessment in our school are:

- to enable our children to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in their work;
- to help our children understand what they need to do next to improve their work;
- to allow teachers to plan work that accurately reflects the needs of each child;
- to provide regular information for parents that enables them to support their child's learning;
- to provide school leaders and governors with information that allows them to make judgements about the effectiveness of the school.

Assessment is not a singular activity; it is about measurement of performance at a given point in time and a way of gaining information to promote future learning. Our first point of principle should be to hold on to aspects of assessment that aim to measure what we value rather than simply valuing what we are able to measure.

Secondly, we acknowledge that there are two distinct types of assessment used by the school. These include:

- **Assessment for learning** helps to identify the next steps needed to make progress. It takes account of pupils' strengths as well as weaknesses
- **Assessment of learning** is more associated with judgements based on grades and ranks and with public accountability.

Therefore we use the following formal assessment procedures to measure outcomes against all schools nationally:

- end of EYFS (% of pupils achieving a "Good Level of Development")
- Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1 (% of pupils achieving the required screening check)
- End of KS1 (% of pupils achieving Level 2c and above in reading, writing, maths) and (% of pupils achieving Level 3 in reading, writing, maths)

- End of KS2 (% of pupils achieving Level 4c in reading , writing and maths) (% of pupils achieved 2 levels or more than 2 levels in reading, writing and maths)

Good assessment practice will:

- raise standards of attainment and behaviour, and improve pupil attitudes and response
- enable the active involvement of pupils in their own learning by providing effective feedback which closes the gap between present performance and future standards required
- promote pupil self-esteem through a shared understanding of the learning processes and the routes to improvement
- track pupil performance and in particular identify those pupils at risk of underachievement
- provide information which can be used by teachers and managers as they plan for individual pupils and cohorts
- provide information which can be used by parents or carers to understand their pupils' strengths, weaknesses and progress
- provide information which can be used to evaluate a school's performance against its own previous attainment over time and against national standards.

The purpose of Assessment for learning is to:

- Provide insight into pupils' learning for both pupils and teachers
- Promote success for all
- Enable continuous reflection on what pupils know now and what they need to know next (feedback and feed forward)
- Measure what is valued
- Promote immediate intervention and link judgements to learning intentions

Implications for teaching

The teacher will:

- Provide continuous oral and written feedback which identifies strengths and the next step for improvement
- Promote pupil involvement in self-assessment
- Act on insights gained to inform personal targets
- Plan against what children know/can do/understand
- Make standards and objectives explicit to pupils
- Promote inclusion by attending to all pupils' learning needs, particularly for pupils who are at risk of underachievement

Impact on learning and the learner

The pupil will:

- Know what to do to improve
- Know what standards are required
- Know what has been achieved against known success criteria and what to do next
- Gain confidence, motivation and self-esteem as a learner
- Improve own self-evaluation skills
- Make progress

The purpose of Assessment of learning is to:

- Provide a summary judgement about what has been learned at a specific point in time
- Establish national benchmarks about what children can do and about school performance

- Show what pupils can do without support
- Hold the school to public account

Implications for teaching

The teacher will:

- Provide a periodic summary through teacher assessment and formal tests
- Identify gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding
- Identify weaknesses in the taught curriculum and in specific areas of learning through analysis of performance which can guide future planning
- Implement strategies to accelerate progress to meet local and national expectations (narrowing the gap)
- Mark and measure against expectations outlined in the National Curriculum

Impact on learning and the learner

The pupil will:

- Be able to gauge own performance against previous performance
- Be able to measure own performance against externally agreed criteria and standards
- Have a measure of performance at specific milestones in life
- Know what standards and expectations are required

Types of assessment:

Day to day	Effective practice would include
Sharing learning objectives with pupils	Share learning objectives at the beginning of the lesson and, where appropriate, during the lesson in language that pupils can understand. Use these objectives as the basis for questioning and feedback during plenaries. Evaluate this feedback in relation to achievement of the learning objectives to inform the next stages of planning.
Helping pupils to know and recognise the standards they are aiming for	Show pupils' work which has met criteria, with explanations of why. Give pupils clear success criteria then relate it to the learning objectives. Model what it should look like. For example, exemplify good writing on the board. Ensure that there are clear, shared expectations about the presentation of work. Provide displays of pupils' work which shows work-in-progress as well as finished product.
Involving pupils in peer- and self-assessment	Give pupils clear opportunities to talk about what they have learned, and what they have found difficult, using the learning objectives as a focus.

	<p>Encourage pupils to work/discuss together, focusing on how to improve.</p> <p>Ask pupils to explain the steps in their thinking. 'How did you get that answer?' for example.</p> <p>Give time for pupils to reflect on their learning.</p> <p>Identify with pupils the next steps in learning.</p>
Providing feedback which leads to pupils recognising their next steps and how to take them	<p>Value oral as well as written feedback.</p> <p>Ensure feedback is constructive rather than positive, identifying what the pupil has done well, what needs to be done to improve, and how to do it.</p> <p>Identify the next steps for individuals and groups as appropriate.</p>
Promoting confidence that every pupil can improve	<p>Identify small steps to enable pupils to see their progress, thus building confidence and self-esteem.</p> <p>Encourage pupils to explain their thinking and reasoning within a secure classroom ethos.</p>
Involving both teacher and pupil in reviewing and reflecting on assessment information	<p>Reflect with pupils on their work, e.g. through a storyboard of steps taken during an investigation.</p> <p>Choose appropriate tasks to provide quality assessment information (emphasis on process, not just the correct answer).</p> <p>Provide time for pupils to reflect on what they have learned and understood, and to identify where they still have difficulties.</p> <p>Adjust planning; evaluate effectiveness of task, resources, etc. as a result of assessment.</p>

Termly strategies:

Termly	Effective practice would include
Monitoring of books	<p>Provide time for all staff to review progress, coverage and marking and feedback in books. Middle leaders/phase leaders hold the overview of this task</p> <p>Senior leaders quality assuring the strengths and weaknesses identified by staff following their own reflection</p>

	During learning walks/lesson observations senior leaders review books and interview pupils about their learning and steps to improve
Moderation across year groups and phases of learning	Provide time for regular moderation of work linked to the National Curriculum Provide time for EYFS/KS1 staff to moderate progress Provide time for KS1/KS2 staff to moderate learning Provide time for KS2/KS3 staff to moderate learning
Formal testing	Use a range of commercially produced materials to undertake a snap shot view of pupil attainment. This snap shot should confirm judgments made by the gathering of the above evidence
Parent Evenings	Pupils lead the meetings with parents/carers and sharing what they do well and what they need to do better. These meetings are quality assured by teachers, who highlight key issues that pupils may need to focus on. In a collaborative way, teachers and pupils co-construct their own next steps to share with parents/carers
Yearly reports	Reports summarise the achievements for pupils during the year. Pupils write their own comments on their learning and what they need to focus on in the coming year Parents/cares respond to comments