



Assessment without Levels –
Information Leaflet for
Parents



Assessment at Northowram Primary School

Levels in Schools

Until September 2015, the National Curriculum levels of attainment were expected benchmarks for each year group. Like all schools, we tracked children's attainment throughout their school life using levels.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Average Level	1a	2b	2a/3c	3b	3a/4c	4b

Changes from September 2015

From last September, the government removed levels in schools (apart from Year 2 and Year 6) although we kept the system throughout last year to maintain continuity between the year groups. In addition to this, the government introduced a new National Curriculum in September 2014 which has also affected how we teach and assess children. We have now changed and developed our assessment practices in response to these government reforms.

Why the change?

The government felt that the system of levels was too complicated and confusing. By removing the levels, schools are now able to give a clearer indication of whether children are at the expected level for their age. Schools have been given the freedom to design their own tracking systems to say where children are in relation to the prescribed age expected content for each year group. This will be benchmarked against the national tests at the end of KS1/KS2 and the Y1 Phonic Screening Check

The new National Curriculum became statutory in September 2014. Expectations across all year groups have been raised and new, more challenging tests are being developed nationally for use at the end of KS1 (Year 2) and KS2 (Year 6) from this year.

The new National Curriculum is a 'Mastery' curriculum. Mastery is the child's ability to apply their learning across the curriculum. This means that children

must MASTER the objectives taught, rather than just be taught them. It is important to note that expectations have increased with the new National Curriculum. A shift in content means that many objectives for English and Maths in the New National Curriculum have been moved down to the year group below. This means that children now need to master a more difficult curriculum.

How will we be assessing children now?

We will be assessing children against the new National Curriculum objectives and using new 'language' to report to parents on how well their children are achieving these new National Curriculum Objectives. Our new assessment tools are fully aligned to these objectives to ensure that our teacher assessments accurately reflect national standards.

New Language of Assessment

New Language	Code	What this means
Emerging	E	Your child is working towards the objectives for this year group for this subject
Developing	D	Your child has achieved about two thirds of the objectives for this year group for this subject
Secure	S	Your child has achieved all/the vast majority of the objectives for this year group for this subject. They have met their age related expectation

Our aim is that through daily high quality teaching, the vast majority of children will be **working securely** with the objectives for their year group by the end of the year.



We will report children's attainment in terms of year group and code e.g. Y4E or Y5S

We expect that children will make 3 points progress in a year. E.g. a child would move from Y3E to Y4E in one year, progressing from Y3E (end of year three)→Y4E (Autumn term Y4)→Y4D(mid-point year 4)→Y4S (end of year 4). We will also report to you on how well your child has 'mastered' these objectives.

What happens if children achieve the year group objectives early in the year?

When children have achieved objectives, they will then be given opportunities to **deepen their understanding** and **apply** these skills. If it is assessed that children have thoroughly 'mastered' the objectives from their own year group (this will be rare - the objectives are very challenging!), we will begin teaching children curriculum content from the next year group.

What happens if my child finds the year group objectives too challenging?

Although the expectation is that the vast majority of pupils will be working towards their year group objectives as a national year group standard, some children may benefit by working with the previous years' National Curriculum objectives. Teachers are committed to finding ways to support children to access learning linked to their year group but where there are clear gaps in skills or learning which has been missed, it may be necessary to re-cover earlier year group objectives.

BENEFITS OF THIS NEW SYSTEM FOR ASSESSMENT

- Better feedback can be given to children based more directly on what they have been learning
- Children given more opportunity to practise, apply and 'master' skills and knowledge in lessons
- Reporting children's progress is clearer for parents and directly linked to year group expectations
- Higher expectations of curriculum and assessment means a higher level of knowledge and skill for children in each year group



National Tests

Children take the following National Assessments as they move through school

Year Group	Assessment	Notes
Reception	'Baseline'	This is a series of assessments which are completed within the first few weeks/days of children entering Reception. Assessments are based on observations and help us identify learning strengths and to set developmental targets for each child as they begin compulsory education
Year 1	Phonics Screening Test	This is a word reading test that children complete at the end of year 1. It is administered 1:1 and is designed to test how well children have acquired the phonics skills they need for reading and writing. It helps to identify if children need further work on phonics in year 2. You will receive details on your child's mark from this test.
Year 2	Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Reading Test Writing Assessment Mathematics tests	Children take a range of tests at the end of key stage 1 to assess how much and how deeply they have learned their year group objectives. These tests will be externally marked. This is the first time that children have been assessed in this way and we are still awaiting details from DfE of how this judgement will be made and reported
Year 6	Maths arithmetic test Maths tests (application of knowledge) Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Tests Reading test Writing assessment (teacher assessment)	Children undertake a range of tests to assess whether they have met the year group standard. With the exception of Writing, these are externally marked. This is the first time that children have been assessed in this way (without levels) and we are still awaiting details from DfE of how this judgement will be made and reported. NB there will be no more level 6 tests for children in year 6.

If you have any questions or queries about
Assessment or Curriculum, please do not hesitate
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