



Assessments for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6

Changes to Assessment and the National Curriculum

From September 2014, the Government has made a huge change in the way that children in schools are to be assessed. This leaflet is to give you some information about all the changes and what this means for the children at Holy Cross and All Saints RC Primary School.

The Department for Education (DfE) wants to ensure that children have a breadth and depth of knowledge at each national curriculum level and they felt that this was not happening under the old system. Schools now need to change and develop their own assessment practices. This is a huge change for all schools.

In September 2014, the Government also introduced a new National Curriculum. This too affected schools and how they will assess children.

The new National Curriculum is a mastery curriculum. Mastery is the child's ability to apply their learning across the curriculum. This means, children must MASTER (be secure in) the objectives taught, rather than just be taught them. There has definitely been a shift in content of the new National Curriculum as well – many objectives for English and Maths from the previous National Curriculum have 'moved down' to the year group below, children are now learning things earlier in their school life than they did before. This means children are needing to master a more difficult curriculum.

E.g. The Year 3 maths curriculum now includes: counting in 10ths; comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators; telling the time to the nearest minute on a 24 hour clock; Roman numerals and formal written methods for addition and subtraction.

Moving from one system to another

As your child moves from one system to another, it may well look as if your child is not doing as well as before. This is because your child is on a new curriculum. Your child will need to complete all the curriculum for the previous year group before working on the curriculum for their current year group. Don't forget, this is a mastery curriculum. Children will need to master the previous year's curriculum in English and Maths first.

Your child will 'appear' to be working at lower levels this year and some children may not reach the secure level at the end of their year group but this is just a 'realignment' of the new national curriculum. The children will still be making good progress and this is tracked by the teachers as they highlight on our Classroom Monitor assessment recording system all the objectives and new learning your child has covered throughout the year.

We can see this by looking at the example below :

A child entering Year 3 would need to learn some of the new curriculum for Year 2 first. This is because the new Year 2 curriculum now contains some of the old Year 3 curriculum.

Then, when the child begins on the Year 3 curriculum, there is more to learn as well because some Year 4 objectives from the old Year 4 curriculum that have now been placed in the new Year 3 curriculum.

There is more information to learn and children must now master this curriculum before moving forward.

It is important to note that expectations have increased with the new National Curriculum.



How will we be assessing children now?

At Holy Cross and All Saints RC Primary School, we have been working hard to develop a system that will enable us to track children's progress and report to parents. Last academic year 2014-15, the school was in a period of transition from the old levels to the new assessment system and at the end of the year levels were reported to parents. From this year pupils will not be assessed using levels.

We are using the objectives from the new National Curriculum.

As directed by the DFE your child will be working on the curriculum for their year group. Eg if your child is in Year 3 they will be working on Year 3 objectives throughout the year with the exception of some pupils who have Special Educational Needs and may need a curriculum tailored specifically to their development needs.

New Language of Assessment

Beginning	ALL pupils will start here in the Autumn term as they begin to access the year groups curriculum
Developing	
Secure	This is the expectation at the end of each year group. The government describe this as mastery.
Exceeding	This means your child is working at greater depth in this area of the curriculum.

Under the old levels system children who were exceeding might have moved into the next level. It should be noted that the Government does not expect children to be working on the curriculum content from the next (higher) year group. Instead, they should be **deepening their understanding** in their own year group and applying their knowledge.

Therefore if your child is in Year 1 and is working towards the end of Year 1 expectations, they will be assessed as beginning 1, developing 1, secure 1 or if your child is in Year 4 and is working towards the end of Year 4 expectations, they will be assessed beginning 4, developing 4, secure 4.

The National expectation is that by the end of the academic year, the majority of the children should be assessed as being SECURE or above within their year group. This means they have mastered the curriculum for their age and year group.

SATS Tests

Children in Year 2 and Year 6 will still undertake SATS (Standard Assessment Tests) set by the Government in Maths and English in May. Your child's teacher will give you further information on how you can support your child.

Reporting to parents

During the year, teachers will have conversations with you about your child's progress you will be told whether your child is on track to meet the end of year expectations. Your child's end of year report will include information on your child's assessments.