



Assessment

St Blaise C of E Primary School

What information
will I receive?

How will I know
how well my
child is doing?

How will my child
know how to
improve?

How can I help my
child to do better?

Background Information

You may now be aware that the assessment system in primary schools is changing. Children will no longer be awarded 'levels' but will be assessed against the content from the National Curriculum on a year by year basis.

New National Assessments for core subjects (Reading, Writing and Mathematics) begin in 2016: year 2 and year 6 children will be tested against the new curriculum and will be given a score out of 130 rather than a national curriculum level.

This change to assessment procedures is intended to provide parents, children and teachers with clear information on progress and attainment. It will help us as teachers identify what your child **can** do, how this compares to what is **expected** for their year group, and what else they need to do to improve. All of which we will be able to pass on to you, as parents.

What information will I receive?

The key points of the new assessment procedures are:

- All assessment will reflect where children are in their learning in relation to their National Curriculum year. Within that year children will progress through stages: **emerging, developing, expected and mastery.**
- Assessment processes will be accessible to all: its purpose, that of supporting children's learning, will be easier to understand by parents.
- As now there will be National Assessments at the end of year 2 and year 6 but children will be given scores, not levels.

The following table shows, what we call the National Assessment points up to the end of year 6. Many of these points have not changed.

National Assessment Points	
Age 2	2 year old screening conducted by your health visitor
Age 4/5 Year R	On entry to school, Reception teachers carry out baseline assessments over the first six to eight weeks.
Age 4/5 Year R	At the end of Reception, children will be assessed against the seven Areas of Learning to see if they have achieved a 'good level of development'.
Age 5/6 Year 1	Phonics screening – June
Age 6/7 Year 2	Externally set tests marked by the class teacher in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental arithmetic • Mathematics • Reading • Spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Age 10/11 Year 6	Externally set and marked tests in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths (2 written papers + mental arithmetic) • Reading • Spelling, punctuation and grammar. • Teacher assessment for writing <p>A scaled score out of 130 will be awarded</p>

How will I know how well my child is doing?

Everything we do, as part of the assessment process, has an impact on learning. Children, staff, and we hope parents will be actively engaged in the assessment process and, as now, there are many opportunities to share the outcomes with you.

Timing	Activity
Throughout the year	Your child's teacher will be continually assessing your child through thorough marking, observation and discussion . Assessment is also informed by tests and other diagnostic assessments. This combined and detailed information is then put on the school's Tracking System where the teachers will make a robust judgement about how well your child is doing against age-related expectations. This is regularly discussed by teachers, and the Governing Body's Learning and Teaching Committee.
November	Parent/child Evening – an opportunity for you to discuss how your child is doing with their teacher. Your child is welcome to attend this meeting.
March	Parent/child Evening – a further opportunity for you to discuss how your child is progressing.
July	End of year report a detailed report will be sent home, which will give you details about your child as a learner: their attitudes, effort, successes and areas for development. It will also give you information about what you can do to support your child over the holidays. There is a further opportunity for a meeting with your child's teacher if you wish to discuss anything that has arisen from the report.

How will my child know how to improve?

Assessment is not meant to be used as a measure of your child's ability at school but as a means to improve their ability to learn: their knowledge, understanding and skills. We feedback to children all of the time on how to improve their work and learning: through discussion and marking.

Talking to children

Oral feedback is vital for all ages. For younger children this is what the teacher will use rather than a lot of written marking – because it will be a while before children are able to read comment accurately for themselves! This gives children clear ideas about what they need to do next.

Marking

We mark children's work giving clear guidance for improvement where appropriate; this is in line with our marking policy. At St Blaise children's work is marked using the colour pink - this represents success – staff are 'tickled pink'; green marking is used to identify next steps – 'green to grow'. English and Mathematics books are marked regularly to ensure that teachers are able to adjust their planning in order to suit the needs of individuals. For older children, there may be comments or questions for your child to respond, or a particular task such as: "Go back through the paragraph and circle all the capital letters". Please note that some feedback will be given orally to your child at the point of learning, so there may not always be a full written comment.

How can I help my child do better?

Your support with your child's learning and attitudes to school are vital. We would ask you to:

- Meet with us on all Parents' Evenings
- Please remember that you are very welcome to make an appointment to see your child's teacher at any mutually agreed time.
- Help with your child's homework tasks. Hearing your child read or discussing their books as they get older, is always important.
- Take an interest in what your child has learnt at school 'today'. Ask: "What did you enjoy most today?" And when they say playing outside with my friends....persevere, and say "Which lesson?"!
- Tell us if your child is not enjoying school, whatever the reason, as we believe firmly in:

Achieving Together

And finally

The children will be involved fully in creating an assessment system that is supportive and positive. It is also important that we report progress to you in a way that is useful and supports you to help your child move forward. Please let us know how we are doing and ask if you would like more information.