



Summerfield Primary School
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RE: Assessing Without Levels

Dear Parents/Carers

The DfE announced last year that there would no longer be National Curriculum levels and that schools would have to set up their own way of assessing pupils. We have spent a long time researching various different methods of assessing pupils. Almost all of the systems used the same format, which was similar to the system used in the Early Years and Foundation Stage. This was to take the end of year expectations for each year group and to split this into categories.

The government refers to 4 categories: working below, working towards, secured/mastered and mastered at greater depth. In Summerfield we have split these categories further, due to the assessment system we are using in school.

U= Unable to access (working below)

E= Emerging (working below)

D= Developing (working towards)

S= Secured (secured/mastered)

M= Mastered (mastered at greater depth)

Under the old levels system, children who were exceeding might have moved into the next level. The DfE now want children who are in this bracket to add more depth and breadth to their knowledge, and to have more opportunities to develop their using and applying skills. They are calling this phase of learning 'mastered at greater depth'. Similarly, children who are unlikely to meet end of year expectations may work towards the expectations from the year below. So how will this look at the end of each Key Stage?

Key Stage 1

It is anticipated that the majority of children will reach the assessment point of Year 2 secured/mastered, a smaller number of children may reach Year 2 mastered at greater depth, and a small number will be Year 2 working below or working towards, or possibly working at Year 1 expectations.

Key Stage 2

Lots of you may have heard of the expression 'High School Ready' as the standard children must achieve by the end of Year 6. The DfE have slightly distanced themselves from this phrase and are talking about children reaching the assessment point of Year 6 secured/mastered. Similar to Year 2, there will be some children who may be Year 6 mastered at greater depth and some children who are Year 6 working below or towards. There may also be a small number of children who are still working at a lower level.

The biggest difference is how we will talk to you about how your child is progressing during the year. With the old National Curriculum levels, each year children were given a target for the end of the year, and during the year we would tell you what National Curriculum level your child was at.

For example, a child could finish Year 3 with a level 3a, and in Year 4 would have a target of a 4b for the end of the year. At Parents/Carers Evenings throughout the year you would have been told that they had moved to a 4c and then on to a 4b.

We used the levels system this way because there was no correlation between a level and a child's year group. However, the 2014 National Curriculum sets out expectations for each year group and children will be assessed against those every year, so a child in Year 4 will always be judged in the first instance against the expectations for the end of Year 4.

So how will the process work in school? By October, the teachers will have had an opportunity to assess how the children are learning. At the start of each year group, every child will be at: unable to assess, developing or emerging, as they are being judged against the End of Year statements. By using their professional knowledge and judgment, teachers will know what the children can already do and what they think the children can achieve. They will then give a forecast as to where they think a child will be by the end of the year. So, for example, children in Year 3 could be given a forecast of U, D, E, S or M.

During the year, when we have conversations with you about your child's progress, we will be using the five categories, in order for you to see how they are progressing.

We hope that you find this guide useful to help you understand why assessment has changed and how assessment has changed.

Thank you for your continued support
The Summerfield Team