

Assessment without levels

The new national curriculum for England is now being taught in all maintained schools. As part of Government reform, assessing using levels has now been removed and schools are expected to assess without levels. Previously, all schools tracked the progress and attainment of each child using levels which were used nationally to gauge where children were with their learning in relation to their peers both in school and nationally. Using levels, schools were provided with a national benchmark which recognised Age related Expectations for each year in school. All primary schools are now able to use any kind of system they choose to assess children's progress.



Our new assessment system tracks how each pupil is performing against the current national curriculum. Teachers use the outcomes of these assessments to summarise and analyse attainment and progress for their pupils and use this data to plan the learning for them, ensuring they meet or exceed expectations.

At Chapel End, we have designed a system that we believe is simple to understand and provides us with the information we need to inform the children's learning and communicate with parents about their child's progress.

The new system

It is useful to think of each year's learning as a separate Band of learning. As children progress through the classes they will be taught the content of that Band of learning. In order to move onto the following Band they will need to be secure in the skills and knowledge that they have been taught. We know that, because each child is unique, some progress more quickly than others and also gain a deeper understanding of concepts before others. As the year progresses, we monitor the children's learning through continuous assessment and at any point we can gauge where the child is up to with their learning. The table below illustrates the range of points within each Band.

Band 2 (Year 2)							
	2E	2E+	2S	2S+	2M	2M+	
Band 3 (Year 3)							
	3E	3E+	3S	3S+	3M	3M+	

The Band corresponds with the year group. There are three separate 'judgements' in each band:

E-Emerging S-Secure and M- More Able

The + sign simply denotes that they are further along with their learning but still within that judgement.

The expectation is that every child progresses at least one jump per term from the point at which they begin the year. Children will begin a new year at a point determined by the last assessment of the previous year.

The Age Related Expectation (ARE) is the S/S+ judgement by the end of the year.

When a child reaches the S+ judgement, they will continue to deepen their understanding of the content of that Band by applying the knowledge to a variety of situations and problems.

So, a child who finishes Band 2 who is assessed at 2S+ is ready to begin the Band 3 learning and will transfer to 3E at the beginning of Year 3.

A child assessed at 2M or 2M+ will be ready to begin Band 3 but has demonstrated that they already have some understanding of the concepts which will be covered in Band 3. They will transfer to a 3E+ at the beginning of Year 3.

Any child who has not reached 2S+ will begin the new year continuing to learn the content from Band 2 that they have not yet fully got to grips with. When they are ready, they will move onto the next Band of learning.

Examples

A child in Year 4 is judged to be at 4E in September. The child is on track to achieve the ARE by the end of the year. (4E-4S+=one 'point' progress per term).

A child is judged to be at 4E+ in September. The child is on track to exceed the ARE by the end of the year.(4E+ to a 4M+ =one 'point' progress per term).

Of course children may progress more quickly and make two jumps per term whilst some may take a little longer to progress through the Band.

It is important to note that, unlike the previous Levels-based system, the curriculum cannot be seen as one, long linear progression. In the past a child could simply keep jumping. In the new system when they are secure with the Band of learning they continue to progress with their mastery of the learning within that Band.

What this means in practice is that a child cannot be judged as being at a point within the next Band up until the start of a new year.