



Assessment in the New National Curriculum

'Life after Levels'

Guide for Parents & Carers



'Life After Levels'

Information for Parents & Carers

Key Questions

- Why has this change happened?
- Which children in school are affected?
- What has replaced the levels?
- How will teachers decide how my child is doing?
- What information will I receive about how my child is doing?
- Where has the new approach come from?



Why has this change happened?

‘The current system of National Curriculum levels will be removed and not replaced’ Department for Education (**July 2014**)

‘Schools need to be conscious that the new curriculum is not in alignment with the old National Curriculum levels’ **NAHT Commission on Assessment (February 2014)**



- There is a new curriculum operating since September 2014
- The existing levels don't work to assess against the new curriculum
- The government have not replaced levels and have left it up to schools to choose an assessment system to replace the old one



Which children in school are currently affected?

- Children in Foundation Stage have not been affected by these changes
- Children in Year 2 & Year 6 have remained on the old curriculum and have been assessed by levels for one more year so they are not at a disadvantage
- Children in year 1, 3, 4 & 5 are now using the new curriculum and therefore levels are an artificial judgement
- From September 2015 all children will be assessed using the new method of assessment.
- It will take time for the new system to be as accurate and robust



What will replace levels?

- Descriptors will be used to describe where your child is working at in accordance with age-related expectations
- The steps are organised in the same way in which the new curriculum is
- Just as the levels, each class will have children working within the different ranges
- The new curriculum is a lot harder so it is more likely that children will be working lower down the scale than they were before



How will teachers decide how my child is doing?

- Teachers will use a variety of methods including:
- Ongoing formative assessment through assessment for and of learning in the classroom, marking and feedback of workbooks, observations of children learning
- Summative assessments every half term using Rising Stars.
- KS2 will have reading judgements supported through the use of accelerated reader.



What information will I receive about how my child is doing?

- As we do now through parents evenings and reports
- It will involve telling you whether they are working below, within or above age-related expectations
- Children in Year 2 & 6 will still be assessed using SATs and this will be reported for the last year as levels
- When the children in Year 1 & 5 take their assessments in May 2016 these will not be reported as levels

By the time our pupils leave Rook's Nest Academy....



... what type of person would you want her/him to be?

makes connections

Is an inquirer

thirst for knowledge



Is a risk-taker



independent

questioning

willing to have a go

listens and reflects **Caring**

makes a difference

gets on well with others

Team worker

generates ideas

critical self-editing

literate

flexible

Communicates well

shows initiative

compassionate

acts with integrity

self-esteem

shaper

loves learning

respectful

curious

learns from mistakes

skilled

'can do' attitude

Is a thinker

creative



Key aims of our primary curriculum



The National Curriculum will:

- act as a new benchmark for all schools
- be slim, clear and authoritative
- set out only the essential knowledge and understanding
- have a greater focus on subject content
- outline what children should expect to know in core subjects
- allow a greater degree of freedom in how knowledge might be acquired and what other teaching should complement the core knowledge
- continue to inform the design and content of assessment at the end of Key Stage 2



Learning Challenge Curriculum

- Through the use of the learning challenge curriculum children will cover foundation subjects through enquiry based learning which promotes curiosity.



Reporting this year

- Your child will be given a judgement based on the old National Curriculum levels but a level will not be given.
- This will be reflective of progress made across this year but is artificial in terms of new National Curriculum expectations.

Moving forward

- Next year all children will be assessed without levels against the new National Curriculum.
- “Health warning” The new National curriculum is far more challenging in its in year expectations and on paper it may seem that children have gone backwards.



What are the important aspects to remember?

- The new curriculum is much harder so children will start much lower down
- It will take time for teacher assessments to be accurate as they were before as teachers become familiar with the new assessment criteria and more materials become available to support our judgements further