

Kingsmoor Academy

How we are assessing the children with the New National Curriculum

Life without levels! What has replaced Levels? - A guide for Parents.

From September 2015 onwards, levels will no longer exist. All year groups will use a new system that replaces levels. Every school can decide on how they want to assess their children to show that they are making progress.

Age Related Expectations (ARE)

At Kingsmoor Academy the children are going to be assessed in Reading, Writing and Maths against their **Age Related Expectations**. The new National Curriculum comprises of statutory requirements of the skills children need to be taught for each year group and these skills are the assessment criteria that teachers will use to monitor the progress made by each child, checking the child's knowledge and understanding of the skills, making sure that they reach their Age Related Expectation (ARE). Please look on the school website for the curriculum information leaflets for every year group. We follow the International Primary Curriculum for all foundation subjects, tracking the coverage of the skills

Results will be gathered at the end of each school year, to evaluate progress made in each school, but we obviously need to assess progress made throughout the year to determine what each child needs to learn next.

Teachers will use a tick sheet system, highlighting the statutory requirements/skills that have been met each half term by each child. The number of ticks will be calculated and totalled as to whether the child is working **BELOW, AT or ABOVE** their chronological age and whether are **Entering, Developing, Securing or Mastering** in their year group and on target to meet or exceed their Age Related Expectations by the end of the year. Mastering refers to a child working above National Expectations. Teachers will also use DC pro (an electronic programme) to record if the Objective has been covered, has the child understood it, have they applied it and therefore achieved their target.

What if your child has gaps in their learning?

If your child has gaps in their learning, we will add them into an intervention group to help fill their gaps and monitor them closely. If at the end of the half term, they are still not making the progress needed, we will change the intervention group.

Your Child's Targets

We understand and agree that it is more important for you to have a discussion with your child's class teacher about the progress your child has made, which is why we will talk to you at parents' consultation evenings, about what they have learnt to do (particularly in writing, reading and maths) and what they need to do next to continue to progress. Targets will be personalised to your child and will enable them to understand what they need to do to improve their learning and therefore make progress.

Summer reports

In the summer report, parents will receive information about whether their child is below, above or at age related expectations or ARE. It is the Government's hope that this will make it clearer for parents to understand how well their children are doing compared to national expectations. If you have any further questions, please talk to your child's class teacher during parents' evenings.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress please speak to your child's class teacher, we are happy to help!

Here is some background information for you

Life without levels

In the past, children have worked towards the next National Curriculum level, i.e. level 3a to 4c, and have been set targets in order to achieve this. Now, teachers will be assessing children's progress against their age related expectations in the form of year group objectives and judging whether they are at age related expectations, above age related expectations, (i.e. working a year or more above) or below age related expectations (i.e. working within previous year's objectives). Targets will be set to meet the next objective in the same way as before to ensure the children make rapid progress. Schools are at varying stages of introducing their new assessment systems and the Government is aware that Schools will be in a transition period. It is going to be particularly difficult to track children's progress from the old National Curriculum to the new one as there is no correlation between the two and the expected standards have risen. However, we can assure you that the education of the children will not suffer; we will remain focused on where the children are and where they need to go next.

In September 2014, the Government introduced a new National Curriculum and announced the removal of National Curriculum levels. The new National Curriculum lays out objectives for the programmes of study by year groups in English, Maths and Science and in Key Stages in the foundation subjects. Teachers plan to teach the objectives set out for their year groups but may dip above or below their year group objectives if a child needs more reinforcement in an area or equally more challenge.