



Our mission as a church school is to be – loving, welcoming and succeeding with faith, family and friendship at the centre of all that we do. The key Christian values that are the core of our school life are forgiveness, creation, koinonia, reverence, service, wisdom, trust and endurance.

Assessment at Little Waltham CEVA Primary School 2015-16

A guide for parents

Following the introduction of the New National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 last year, the government has now removed the system of levels that you will have been familiar with in terms of measuring progress and attainment.

Children will now be assessed one year at a time rather than moving through different levels year on year.

Schools now have their own systems which then align to end of key stage tests. This leaflet is designed to give you more information about the new system for 2015-16. Children's progress is closely monitored at Little Waltham. All assessment activities aim to ensure that the children are able to make progress in their learning, whilst taking into account the needs of individual children.

The aims and objectives of assessment in our school are:

- to enable our children to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in their work;
- to allow teaching teams to plan work that accurately reflects the needs of each child;
- to help our children understand what they need to do next to improve their work;
- to provide information for parents that enables them to support their child's learning;
- to contribute towards accountability data.
- To be useful, purposeful and robust

We have a consistent approach across the school so that staff can have a comprehensive picture of where children are at each stage of their learning

Both tests and teacher assessment are necessary in order for the teacher to have a complete picture of a child's capabilities.

Ongoing Teacher Assessment

Most formative assessment information will be collected through observations of children, work in books, discussion with children, guided group work, pupil self-assessment etc.

Assessment information will be used to inform teacher planning and to identify children who may need extra support or reinforcement.

Assessment will involve:

- Learning objectives and success criteria made explicit and shared with pupils
- Learning partners are used to assist learning
- Peer and self-assessment is in use verbally and in written form.
- Pupils are engaged in their learning and given speedy feedback during the lesson and in marking
- Active learning is encouraged
- A range of rich questioning techniques are used to evaluate pupil understanding and move learning on and identify misconceptions
- The curriculum is devised so that children can easily see the expected learning objectives across all subjects in their year group and are involved in evaluating their own success and next steps

As children meet the learning objectives in their lessons they are given challenges and opportunities to show learning at a greater depth and across different contexts – ‘Mastery’.

Mastery is demonstrated by the children at all stages and is planned for in every lesson.

How will information be reported to parents?

At parents evening you will be told what step they are working at, this will indicate whether they are on track for reaching age related expectations (ARE) at the end of the year. Teachers will talk to you about your child’s strengths and any areas for development that they can work on to move them on.

In Years 1-6 children are assessed against the relevant Tracking points for their year group.

Age - related expectations for the New Curriculum

Year	STEPS																																			
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34											
1							Acquiring	Secure	Mastered																											
2									Acquiring	Secure	Mastered																									
3												Acquiring	Secure	Mastered																						
4																Acquiring	Secure	Mastered																		
5																		Acquiring	Secure	Mastered																
6																				Acquiring	Secure	Mastered														

Acquiring skills at age related expectations
 Secure in skills at age related expectations
 Mastered skills at age related expectations

Expectations within the new curriculum have been raised across all year groups.

It is expected that the vast majority of pupils will complete each academic year working in the secure range of age related expectations or above, making 3 steps or more progress.

The school can then track progress and attainment in a consistent manner to measure a child's learning against the expectation for the year group they are in.

Statutory Assessment

Early years

Baseline - At the start of the academic year in Foundation Stage, staff assess where the children are at and identify next steps in learning. Throughout the year, Foundation Stage year staff will informally monitor development and keep detailed records that include photographs, post it notes of observations and more detailed learning journeys. Parents are also encouraged to contribute to the special books. This book and its contents are shared with families. Over the course of the academic year children in Foundation Stage are assessed against certain criteria. At the end of the year pupils are given a final assessment, a Profile score of 1 – working below expectation, 2- expected, 3- working above expectation.

Key Stage 1

Year One phonics check

All children in Year 1 will participate in a phonics check towards the end of the year. This assessment will be administered by the Year 1 teachers. It is a light touch assessment to confirm whether children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. Results are sent home in the Summer term.

Year 2 National Assessment

Children in Year 2 are assessed during May with National Assessments in English and Maths to establish what they have learnt during Year 1 and 2. The results of these assessments are reported annually to parents. In 2016 there will be a new series of assessments based on the new curriculum. Children will be assessed in Reading, Maths, Writing, Spelling and Grammar tests. Children will be deemed to be:

- Not working towards the expected standard,
- Working towards the expected standard
- Working at the expected standard
- Working at greater depth within the expected standard

Key Stage 2

Year 6 National Assessment

Children in Year 6 are assessed during May with National Assessments in English and Maths to establish what they have learnt during Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The results of these assessments are reported annually to parents. In 2016 there will be a new series of assessments based on the new curriculum. Children will be assessed in Reading, Maths, Writing, Spelling and Grammar tests. Science will be teacher assessed.

Children will be deemed to be:

- Not working towards the expected standard,
- Working towards the expected standard
- Working at the expected standard
- Working at greater depth within the expected standard

We hope that you find this guide useful in helping you understand how assessment has changed and how we share this information with parents and carers. You can find our Policy for Assessment on our website www.little-waltham-school.co.uk.

It is also worth noting that the expectations in the New National Curriculum are pitched at a much higher standard than previously and this will affect a child's assessment measures.

A useful website is www.gov.uk