



**North East Derbyshire
Support Centre**

Assessment and Progress Tracking Policy

Produced by: David Marlow **Date:** 19/09/2022

Last reviewed on, by:

Next review due by: 19/09/2023

Approved by: Janine Dix

Version: 1

Aims

1. This policy aims to:
 - 1.1. Provide clear guidelines on our current approach to formative and summative assessment at KS3 and KS4.
 - 1.2. Establish a consistent and coherent approach to recording summative assessment outcomes.
 - 1.3. Establish a consistent method for target setting.
 - 1.4. Confirm how we measure progress.
 - 1.5. Clearly set out how and when assessment practice will be monitored and evaluated.
 - 1.6. Set out our future developments with regards data recording, assessment, and progress tracking.

Legislation and Guidance

2. Since the removal of National Curriculum levels in 2014, schools have been free to develop their own approaches to assessment.
3. This policy refers to the recommendations in the Final Report of the Commission on Assessment without Levels.
4. The Policy also refers to statutory reporting requirements set out in the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005: schedule 1.

Purposes of Assessment

5. Pupils:

- 5.1. To serve as a tool that will encourage and motivate pupils to learn
- 5.2. To assist pupils in setting goals for themselves to develop learning strategies
- 5.3. To build positive self-esteem and encourage pupils to strive for their personal best
- 5.4. To inform pupils about, and to enable them to monitor, their current level of skill/knowledge mastery and provide guidance on the next steps required to make further progress
- 5.5. To empower pupils to be independent, self-reliant and self-critical learners
- 5.6. To be used to assessment practices, grading and marking so that the criteria are transparent and fair

6. Teachers:

- 6.1. To determine previous learning to decide appropriate level of instruction
- 6.2. To evaluate pupil competency
- 6.3. To identify pupils' specific academic strengths and areas of growth so that the teacher can design appropriate instruction within the classroom
- 6.4. To provide feedback for pupils to improve their performance and achieve personal goals
- 6.5. To measure whether the teacher's instruction has been successful
- 6.6. To ensure consistency and reliability between teachers
- 6.7. To provide external validations for their practices and judgements
- 6.8. To provide diagnostic information about SEND to contribute to the design of Individual Learning Plans
- 6.9. To gauge the academic progress made by pupils in each subject

7. Parents and Carers:

- 7.1. To determine if their child is learning what is necessary for future success both in the academy and beyond

- 7.2. To help parents and Carers fully understand the strengths, weaknesses, progress, achievements and learning style of their child
- 7.3. To gauge the academic progress made by their child in each subject
- 8. **Senior Leadership Team (SLT):**
 - 8.1. To aid the academy in determining whether a pupil will be successful within a particular year group or subject
 - 8.2. To establish a knowledge base to work with teachers to the develop the curriculum and the modification of instructional methods
 - 8.3. To plan effective CPD and INSET
 - 8.4. To provide information, both on an individual pupil level, and on a collective basis, to aid analysis of teacher and subject effectiveness and the progress and achievement of pupils
 - 8.5. To provide information to assess current subjects and/or the introduction of new subjects
 - 8.6. To generate information which will be used to inform academy improvement planning

Principles of Assessment

- 9. Assessment is a key process in the improvement of teaching and learning at our academy. Assessment methods are both formative and summative and should demonstrate what pupils know, are able to do and understand.
- 10. Assessments will provide diagnostic information, baseline information and evidence of progress throughout the year. A variety of assessment methods will be used to accommodate learning styles, differing abilities, special educational needs, the development of the whole child and to encourage higher thinking skills.
- 11. It is our aim for most pupils to know in advance when and how they will be assessed and the criteria for assessment will be provided to the pupils. Assessments provide pupils, teachers and parents with evidence to evaluate learning, the curriculum and progress.
- 12. Our approach to assessment will depend on the quality and quantity of information supplied from a pupil's previous school. Our pupils are permanently excluded, often we receive limited incoming data about a pupil due to their poor attendance or refusal to complete assessments in their previous school. Sometimes assessment information is not current and not of the quality to enable us to plan effectively to meet the pupil's needs.
- 13. Our aim is therefore to have current summative assessment data for each pupil on entry to our academy with accurate baseline starting points for each subject to enable staff to meet their needs, set appropriate targets and for the pupils to make progress.
- 14. Pupils may be on roll with our academy for limited periods and therefore pupils must make progress towards suitably set targets in a short time frame. We will aim to use the minimal amount of summative assessments necessary in order to set informative baselines and meaningful targets.
- 15. A range of formative assessments will be used in by teachers to inform planning, identify misconceptions and assess learning against assessment criteria and learning objectives, over time.
- 16. We believe that our assessment practices should be an integral part of planned learning and that assessment methods should be fair, transparent and free from bias.

Progress Tracking

- 17. Progress is the improvement from a baseline towards a target level or grade.
- 18. Progress will be measured 6 times per year, at the end of each half term. The data system will also measure progress from a pupil's baseline.

19. Our pupils arrive at different ages, at different times of year and from a range of previous schools. Where pupils are studying towards a national qualification such as Entry Level, Functional Skills, GCSEs or GCSE equivalents, teachers will use the assessment framework set in the respective Specification.
20. Across the academy there will be subjects where pupils are not engaged in a national qualification. In order for pupils to have one consistent system of assessment in this circumstance, we have developed the 14 Step framework. Each subject has up to 14 steps of assessment criteria, which covers the national curriculum for that subject.
21. The 14 Steps range will be between Early Years content, through the KS1 and KS2 national curriculum, moving on to KS3 content and finally GCSE assessment criteria.
22. The 14 Steps allow a pupil to have a baseline level and a target set that reflects their stage not age. This will ensure that no pupil is held back and maximum progress can be made. This system also eliminates any stigma for weaker KS4 pupils who are working at primary level.
23. The 14 Steps are produced in differentiated order and also highlight content that should be delivered at a basic level, building in sequential and logical steps to increase depth of knowledge.
24. Each subject will have a number of assessment criteria making up their 14 Steps. Each assessment criteria has a variable number of objectives (steps), up to 14, to be met. Some assessment criteria may start at Step 1, other may start at Step 5, for example, reflecting that this subject content requires the cumulative learning of the Steps below or because the floor level of that assessment criteria is fundamentally more difficult, than the floor level of other assessment criteria.
25. Our academy recognises that progress will be made in small increments and that it is important for all stakeholders for those increments to be recognized, each Step is divided into 3 sub areas of emerging, developing and secure. Staff will use their professional judgement to identify how secure a pupil's knowledge is for each step. To support this, pupils may be required to perform each new element within a step 3 times before they can be classed as 'secure'.
26. Pupils will have a baseline step and target for each subject. Pupils should be able to make a full step of progress in an academic year. If a pupil is assessed as working at step 3E in Art in September, their target would be a 4E by the end of the year, making a sublevel of progress each full term.

Baseline Testing

27. Pupils are assessed on entry using a combination of the following:
 - 27.1. Baseline data from the previous school
 - 27.2. Attainment data from the previous school
 - 27.3. End of KS1 SATs results if previously taken
 - 27.4. End of KS1 SATs results if previously taken
 - 27.5. British Key Skills Builder (BKSB) online initial assessments for English and Maths
 - 27.6. Lexplore reading age test
 - 27.7. GL Assessment spelling age test
 - 27.8. Formative teacher assessment

Collecting and using data

- 27.9. Baseline, target and progress data is recorded in the academy's online system "Different Class Professional" (DCPro). This is analysed to provide progress information and to enable us to target pupils who require more intervention. Pupil, parents, carers and staff are made aware of these assessment scores via ILP targets, Pupil Information Packs (PIPs), and academy Reports.
- 27.10. Progress information and analysis is shared with the Governing Body as part of their QA process.
- 27.11. We will record completion of any national examinations throughout the year on DCPro.

- 27.12. Vocational qualification data is recorded in Alternative Provider (AP) tracking spreadsheets stored in online 365 folders per AP. Pupils have a target outcome set for the year based on the guided learning hours required in order to cover the subject content. Baseline data will be provided by the academy to APs in order to support the target setting process and ensuring the integrity of progress tracking.
- 27.13. Pupils are set Behaviour Targets in DCPro and progress towards each individual target is given per teacher, per lesson. At the end of each academy day each pupil's behaviour data is input into DCPro where analysis can then take place.

Target Setting

28. We aim for all pupils to have an appropriate target set, derived from their baseline data. Accurate baseline testing will ensure that planning has a focus on gaps in learning and ensure that pupils are taught new content and not what they already know.
29. In regard to Reading Age and Spelling Age, if a pupil achieves over the chronological age of 9.5 years then they are working at a functional level. Our focus will be to ensure that pupils make progress towards working, at a minimum, at a functional level in society. To support the prioritisation of intervention resources, we will track the difference between Chronological Age and working at age in terms of 'On or Above', 'Some Concern' 18 months or less below Chronological Age and 'Of Concern' more than 3 years below Chronological Age.
30. Targets will be set for each subject and qualification being followed:
 - 30.1. Lessons in KS3, including lessons offering ASDAN Short Course Awards, a target using 14 Steps Pathway
 - 30.2. Lessons in KS4, including lessons offering ASDAN Short Course Awards, but not national qualifications, a target using 14 Steps Pathway
 - 30.3. Lessons working towards Entry Level qualifications, Functional Skills, Entry Level & Functional Skills Pathway (eg. Entry Level 2)
 - 30.4. Lessons working towards Royal Horticulture Society qualifications, a target using 14 Steps Pathway
 - 30.5. Lessons working towards GCSE qualifications, GCSE Pathway (eg. Grade 4).
31. Aspirational targets will be set for pupils to make at least one Step of progress (14 Steps), one Level of progress (Entry Level / Functional Skills), or one 'Grade' of progress (GCSE), over an Academic Year.
32. Pupils join NEDSC at different times during the year depending on the date of their permanent exclusion. Their targets will be set proportionately to the length of time left in that particular academic year.
33. The Pathways we will use to set targets is presented at the end of this policy.

Reporting to Parents

34. Due to the nature of our academy, parents / carers may be contacted daily via phone call or email to report on behaviour, engagement and progress. All pupils have ILP targets set as part of their PIP, these are shared with parents.
35. All parents / carers will also receive a formal academic progress report at least twice per year.

Inclusion

36. The principles of this Assessment Policy apply to all pupils, including those with special educational needs or disabilities. Assessment will be used diagnostically to contribute to the early and accurate identification of pupils' special educational needs and any requirements for support and intervention.
37. We will use meaningful ways of measuring all aspects of progress, including communication, social skills, physical development, resilience and independence. We will have the same high expectations of all pupils. However, this should account for the amount of effort the pupil puts in as well as the outcomes achieved.

38. For pupils working below the national expected level of attainment, our assessment arrangements will consider progress relative to pupil starting points and take this into account alongside the nature of pupils' learning difficulties. The academy 14 steps will allow all pupils regardless of age to be involved in the assessment process.

Roles and Responsibilities

39. Governors are responsible for:
- 39.1. Being familiar with statutory assessment systems as well as how the academy's own system of non-statutory assessment captures the attainment and progress of all pupils.
 - 39.2. Holding academy leaders to account for improving pupil and staff performance by rigorously analysing assessment data.
40. The Headteacher is responsible for:
- 40.1. Ensuring that the policy is adhered to.
 - 40.2. Monitoring standards in core and foundation subjects.
 - 40.3. Analysing pupil progress and attainment, including individual pupils and specific groups.
 - 40.4. Prioritising key actions to address underachievement.
 - 40.5. Reporting to Governors on all key aspects of pupil progress and attainment, including current standards and trends over previous years.
41. Teachers are responsible for following the assessment procedures outlined in this policy.

Monitoring

42. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher and approved by the Headteacher.
43. All teaching staff are expected to read and follow this policy.
44. The Deputy Headteacher will monitor the effectiveness of assessment practices across the academy, through:
- 44.1. The academy data system
 - 44.2. Learning walks
 - 44.3. Lesson observations
 - 44.4. Work scrutinies
 - 44.5. Planning scrutinies
 - 44.6. Whole academy attainment and progress tracking
 - 44.7. Teacher's planning
 - 44.8. PIPs

