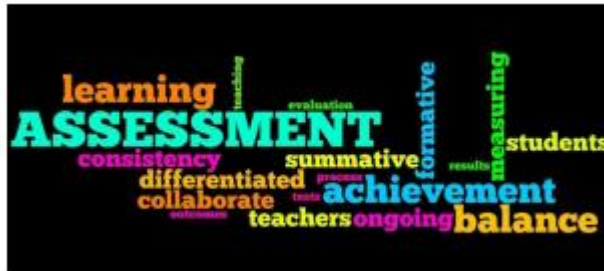




## Parents' Guide to Assessing Attainment and Progress



Following the statutory changes to the National Curriculum in September 2014, we have implemented a new and effective assessment system that will provide reliable information to you about how your child is performing. It will also to help drive improvement for children and teachers ensuring school is keeping up with external practice and innovation.

### **At Over St John's we believe assessment should:**

- ✓ Provide children with appropriate feedback on their learning.
- ✓ Provide class teachers with assessment opportunities designed to support planning and implementation of a curriculum that meets the needs of each child.
- ✓ Provide information that will assist the early identification of specified support so that all children can achieve their full potential.
- ✓ Provide you with a clear and accurate sense of your child's achievements and progress, as well as areas where you can support development at home.

### **What do we use to assess your child's attainment against the National Curriculum?**

The National Curriculum has been written to give age related expectations for the end of each year. As children travel from Year 1 to Year 6 in our school, they will be tracked against these age related expectations using Target Tracker software.

Target Tracker refers to each year group as a band e.g: Year 1 = Band 1; Year 2 = Band 2 etc.

All children are individual and develop at different rates and with differing needs. This may mean that your child's band does not match their current year group. Where this is the case, your child will be receiving targeted support to help them work towards closing any gaps.

The attainment bands are further broken down into sections that are referred to as steps. There are 6 steps within each band:

beginning (b) beginning plus (b+) working within (w) working within plus (w+) secure (s) secure plus (s+)

## What does each step actually mean?

- b/b+ : Children are starting to learn content in their band.
- w/w+ : Children's learning is fully focused on their band and up to approximately 70% of the content has been covered, understood and achieved.
- s : Children are competent in their band and up to approximately 90% coverage of the content has been achieved. Children may still need to build confidence in using and applying some elements.
- s+ (mastery): Children are 100% secure in all areas in their band and can show confidence and competence in repeatedly applying the skills they have learnt.

Not all children will start at b for the beginning of the year, it will depend on the individual child and their needs. Each child will have their own starting point as they progress through the school.

## How will I know that my child is making progress?

Wherever children begin their learning in September, we expect them to make 6 steps of progress. So if they start at 2W+ in Year 3, we generally will expect them to be at least 3W+ at the end of Year 3. Over time, accelerated progress of more than 6 steps will close any gaps.

## What do teachers use to gauge children's progress?

Independent work is the biggest indicator of what they can do and how they do it. Teachers use this on a daily basis to know and check pupil understanding and progress. Special pieces of work to inform assessment are set up throughout the year. This is done alongside Reading and Spelling age tests, the Phonics Screen in Year 1 and year end tests in Year 2 and Year 6

## How do all schools know that their judgments about progress and attainment match up with each other?

At Over St John's, we work across the school and with other local schools to agree and moderate attainment. The Local Authority visits the school once every few years to moderate the assessments in Reception, Year 2 and Year 6.

## Will children still be assessed using SATs?

Yes. In May 2019, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will take tests in Reading, Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation and Maths.

## What's happening in Reception as they do not follow the National Curriculum?

Children in Hatchmere continued to be tracked through Development Matters by age bands. By the end of the year, it is expected that they reach the Early Learning Goals.

At the beginning of the year, a baseline assessment is made of everything they can do so teachers know what they need to learn next.

Children are tracked through their Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional, Physical Development by what they write down, through careful observation of what they can do, how they interact with others and how they explain what they know. A Learning Journey is kept of their development—which we will share with you throughout the year, parents can contribute to this to include what children can do and are interested in at home.

At the end of the year, your child's ongoing assessment will be used to level your child. This is reported to parents in July, so parents know if their child is at age related expectations, is emerging into this or exceeding above. Most importantly, it shows how much progress has been made from the baseline, and so teachers in Year 1 are ready to teach them their next steps in the National Curriculum.



**What can I do to help my child?**

There is so much that parents can help with. Reading is very important along with times tables, spellings and practicing number bonds. Also completing homework as well as talking about what they are learning at school. Our website has links to supporting websites where there are lots of fun games to support primary learning. Your child's class teacher can also give you some specific pointers to help your child at home.

