

Highfields Primary Academy

Assessment Policy



December 2021

Introduction

This policy and procedure has been produced based on recommendations in the Final Report of the Commission on Assessment without Levels (September 2015) and in line with the 'Purposes and Principles of Assessment without Levels'.

Rationale

Assessment is a continuous process which is integral to teaching and learning allowing all children to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. It should always be accurate, reliable, consistent, provide clear information and have a positive impact on pupil's learning. Assessment of children can take different forms including both observations and discussions, as well as the formal assessment of written work and tests. On-going teacher assessment is central to pupils making good progress.

Aims

At Highfields, the principle of 'single-input/multiple-output' is extremely important for assessment. The aim of our assessment is to ensure that:

- Assessment is an integral part of teaching, based on best practice, focusing on the curriculum and that it lies at the heart of promoting children's education, progress, attainment and wider outcomes.
- The academy ethos promotes and emphasises the opportunity for all children to succeed if taught and assessed effectively.
- Pupils progress well in lessons, knowing why they have been taught a skill, and what they need to do to improve further.
- A consistent approach is conducted that measures academy progress against national standards.

The outcomes of assessment inform:

- Pupils and their parents about progress and achievements, and next steps.
- Teachers about gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding, or skills that need to be addressed through further teaching.
- Academy leaders about the progress of individuals and groups, against national standards, in order to ensure equality of opportunity, inform teacher performance management, and help leaders target resources and intervention strategies.

Roles and Responsibilities

The 'single-input/multiple-output' assessment principle allows all stakeholders to maximise their role in the assessment process:

Governing Body: Monitor whole school attainment and progress data with the support of the headteacher.

Headteacher: Hold teaching staff to account for pupil attainment and progress through the monitoring of assessment data and performance management targets.

Core Subject and Assessment leaders: Use pupil progress meetings, moderation sessions and data analysis effectively to monitor the performance of individuals, groups and cohorts.

Teachers: Carry out regular, accurate assessment of pupils, provide high-quality feedback and use assessment information to inform planning.

Support staff: Support children with their learning as directed by class teachers and provide feedback on children's learning.

Parents/Carers: Support children with home learning.

Types of Assessment

At Highfields Primary Academy, we use three broad overarching forms of assessment: Formative, Summative and National Statutory Summative (specific year groups).

Formative (Assessment for Learning)

The ongoing, daily assessment which is carried out by teachers (with the support of teaching assistants) and is key to effective classroom practice. Learning outcomes are shared with pupils who play an important role through the self-assessment of their own learning. We believe pupils will improve the most if they understand the aim of their learning, where they are in relation to this aim, and how they can achieve this aim (i.e. to close the gap in their knowledge).

Summative (Assessment of Learning)

Pupils are assessed periodically and progress and attainment data is recorded in order to be available for use by all stakeholders. Standardised test materials are used to support teachers with making accurate teacher assessment judgements. These termly assessments are used to monitor the performance of individuals, groups and cohorts as well as identifying gaps and next steps for planning.

National Statutory Summative

At key points through primary school, pupils are formally assessed against national expectations. These are at the end of: EYFS, Year 1 (Phonics Screening), Key Stage 1 (Year 2 SATs), Year 4 (multiplication tables check) and Key Stage (Year 6 SATs). All statutory assessments are conducted in-line with the national framework guidelines.

Marking

Whilst marking written work, teachers are assessing pupil's achievements and success whilst also noting areas of difficulty which will inform future planning of lessons. Our marking policy (available upon request) ensures a consistent approach to marking throughout the academy, including opportunities for pupils to self-assess and peer-assess their learning.

Early Years (EYFS) Baseline Assessment

On entry to EYFS, staff will use their professional judgement to assess the age band children are working 'within' across the EYFS 17 areas of learning. Within 6 weeks of a child starting, they will be given a 'baseline' assessment (in accordance with statutory Reception Baseline assessment).

The reception baseline is an age-appropriate assessment of mathematics and literacy, communication and language (LCL), that is delivered in English. It is clearly linked to the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). However, due to the length and nature of the reception baseline, not all areas of learning and development in the EYFS are assessed. At the end of the assessment, the reception baseline will record a single raw score out of 39 for each pupil. This score will not be made available to schools. Raw scores will be recorded in the national pupil database and used to create a cohort-level progress measure for schools at the end of key stage 2.

As the year progresses, children are monitored on their development and progress across all areas of learning. Formative evidence is collected through observations and discussions and these are recorded in pupil's individual learning journeys. Provision is made for these observations and assessments through experience and play. Photographic evidence is also collected along with pupil quotations. Along with any written work, these form the basis of the on-going teacher assessments in line with National Expectations.

The EYFS teacher will submit summative EYFS data to the headteacher during the second half of the summer term.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

Core subject leaders have devised a series of year-specific expectations in their areas of the curriculum. The expectations are based on concrete knowledge and skills, and indicate whether a pupil is working towards the expected standard, working at the expected standard or working beyond the expected standard in each subject area. The KPIs form the main basis for discussions regarding attainment and progress at Pupil Progress and Moderation meetings.

Pupil Progress Meetings

At least once a term, teaching staff meet with the headteacher and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss current pupil attainment and progress. If a pupil becomes a concern, or is making slow progress, they are carefully monitored and sometimes diagnostic tests are used to develop a more in-depth picture of the pupil. If required, a pupil may be involved in an intervention group to accelerate their progress. Expectations for Pupil Progress meetings are stated in the 'Pupil Progress Non-Negotiables' document.

Moderation

Teachers attend termly moderation meetings with English and Math Leaders to ensure that formative assessment evidence is of sufficient quality, and that judgements on achievement are consistent across year groups. A minimum of three pupils from each class are selected by leaders, and their work is reviewed and discussed with the pupil's class teacher at the meeting. Termly cluster/MAT moderation meetings are also attended to ensure consistency.

Reporting to Parents/Carers

Teachers meet termly with parents/carers at Parent Consultation Meetings in order to have informative and productive conversations about pupil attainment and progress. Staff are also available for informal consultation if parents wish to discuss their child's learning at other points. End of year reports will comment on pupil attainment and progress, and also report statutory assessment data for Year 1 (phonics screening), Year 2 (SATs), Year 4 (multiplication tables check) and Year 6 (SATs).

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