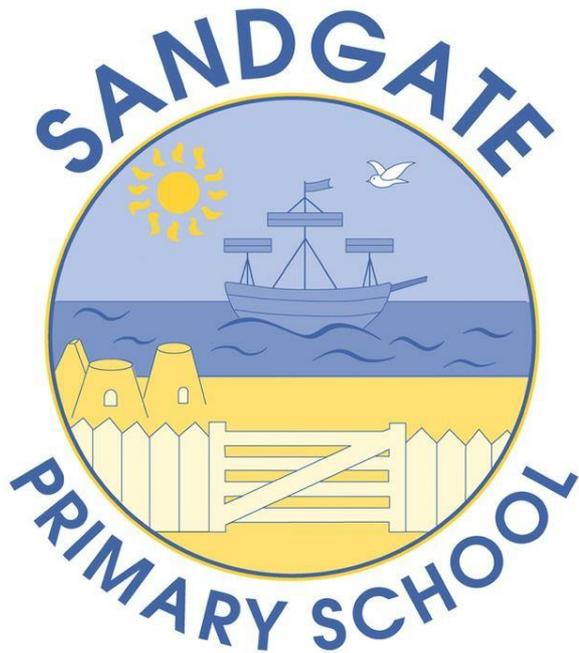


Assessment Without Levels



at **Sandgate Primary School**

Friday 21st November, 2014

The new national curriculum for England is now being taught in all maintained schools. As part of Government reform, assessing using levels has now been removed and schools are expected to assess without levels.

If your child is currently in either Year 2 or Year 6 they will be the last group of children to be assessed at the end of this academic year using levels. They are being still being taught the skills of the old curriculum.



Previously, all schools tracked the progress and attainment of each student using levels, starting at 1 and potentially ending (at primary school) at level 6.

Each level was divided into 3 sections: C, B and A.

C was the lowest part of the level, with A being the highest part of the level.

A '4B' represented a child who in Year 6 had reached the national average. Level 4 is what all schools aim for, as this ensures pupils are secondary ready.

Some of the pupils at Sandgate (usually between 60% and 75% of the cohort) achieve a Level 5 at the end of Year 6, which is higher than national average. Some pupils will achieve a Level 6 which equates roughly to a C grade GCSE.

ASSESSMENT



So why is **'Life Without Levels'** a more fair and precise system of assessment?

"Levels have detracted from real feedback and schools have found it difficult to apply them consistently - the criteria are ambiguous and require teachers to decide how to weight a huge array of factors... It will be for schools to decide how they assess pupils' progress."

- Levels could hide gaps that pupils had in their knowledge and understanding. This led to pupils being inaccurately assessed, with misconceptions and lost learning travelling with them as they progressed through the school.
- The new system is totally personalised to each child where every single skill within each subject is assessed – therefore empowering teachers, pupils and parents.

So what does Sandgate's new assessment system look like? What information will support you as parents with your child's learning at home?

0	Not demonstrating any knowledge/ understanding
1	Beginning to access knowledge and understanding
2	Applies knowledge and understanding
3	Consistently and securely applies knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts across the curriculum
4	Mastery: above and beyond

How is Reading being assessed?

In Maths and Writing, a child every day will produce work in their books; this work can be used by teachers to assess each child's understanding of the skills.

However, in Reading, written evidence of understanding is produced less frequently. Therefore, Accelerated Reader, a new assessment system, has been launched to assess each child's ability in reading.



Lifelong Readers:

Accelerated Reader promotes reading for pleasure.

AR is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice. With AR, teachers can create a reading programme to meet the needs of every child.

Using information generated by the software, teachers can help children select books that are difficult enough to keep them challenged, but not too difficult to cause frustration. In addition, it helps teachers to monitor students' vocabulary growth, literacy skills development and reading skills taught through other reading schemes.

Reporting to you on your child's progress:

We would now like your views on how we can inform you of your child's progress.

Our curriculum and assessment framework enables us to **pinpoint** the aspects of the curriculum in which pupils are falling behind whilst recognising exceptional performance. The new assessment system tracks how each pupil is performing against the new skills of the national curriculum. Teachers use the outcomes of these assessments to summarise and analyse attainment and progress for their pupils and their classes and use this data to plan the learning for every pupil, **ensuring they meet or exceed expectations**. Teacher and leaders analyse the data across the whole school to ensure that pupils identified as vulnerable or at particular risk in this school are making appropriate progress and that **all pupils are suitably challenged**.

We celebrate all achievements across a broad and balanced curriculum, including sport, art and performance, science, behaviour, and social and emotional development.

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Parent Feedback

1.) What did you learn from today's workshop?

2.) What do you think about the removal of levels?

3.) What do you think of Sandgate's new tracking system, where each child is assessed against the skills associated with their age?

4.) How would you like to be informed of your child's progress towards meeting all of their age-related skills?

5.) Other comments: