

South Hams Federation

Assessment Statement 2018-2019

Our Approach to Assessment

At Stokenham Area Primary School we believe that assessment is integral to high quality teaching and learning. It helps us to ensure that our teaching is appropriate and that our learners are making good progress. Our staff are regularly trained in our approach to assessment and we have senior leaders who are responsible for assessment across the school.

How do we assess?

Assessment serves many purposes, but the main purpose of assessment in our school is to help teachers, teaching assistants, parents and pupils plan the next steps in learning to ensure success.

To do this, we regularly assess the pupils in a number of ways:

- Through informal questioning during lessons, so that teachers and teaching assistants can check what pupils know and understand.
- Through marking books and giving written and/or verbal feedback.
- Half termly assessments which might include a maths test and an extended piece of writing after a unit of study in English.
- Other informal assessments such as spelling tests and times tables tests.
- Informal observations, for example; watching a PE sequence.
- More formal assessments at the end of the year.
- Statutory assessments at the end of Years 2 and 6 and the Phonics test in Year 1.

Our teachers meet regularly in their planning teams across the federation to ensure that their assessments are accurate. They also receive additional training by attending staff meetings in school and courses provided by the Local Authority. At times, teachers also meet with colleagues from other schools within the area to check that their judgements are similar. This is called moderation. Periodically, we are visited by external advisors who monitor our judgements. This year 2 of the schools within the federation (Loddiswell and Malborough with South Huish C of E Primary Schools) had a Key Stage 2 writing moderation visit led by the English advisor to ensure that our teachers' judgements were accurate and in line with other schools and the Local Authority. Loddiswell and Malborough also had an Early Years Moderation visit.

How do we report to parents?

We hold parent consultation meetings in the Autumn and Spring terms where we discuss pupil's progress and current targets. In these meetings we also discuss what will be our expectations for the pupil's progress and their age related expectations by the end of the year. At the end of the Spring term, parents of pupils in Foundation Stage and Years 1-6 receive a report which includes details of what has been achieved and indications of what the pupils need to do next to move their learning on. Statutory information on how pupils' have achieved in the Year 1 phonics test and the assessments in Years 2 and 6 is also given to parents in July where there is also an opportunity for parents to discuss the results with teachers should they wish to do so.

We also celebrate all achievements across our broad and balanced curriculum including sport, art, music and behaviour as well as social and emotional development.

What has changed since Autumn 2014?

A new curriculum was introduced in the Autumn of 2014, the government has removed the system of using levels to assess pupils.

Schools have been given greater freedom to develop their own system or adopt a new system that they feel meets the needs of the pupils.

Over the past year we have been developing and amending our assessment and tracking system in line with changes to the Assessment Frameworks. Our assessment and tracking systems (Target Tracker) continue to be robust and clearly demonstrates pupil progress and the next steps for learning, in terms of tracking a pupils' journey's through the curriculum for their year group, in terms of progress towards achieving pupils achieving Age Related Expectations by the end of each academic year. This year we continue to use Target Tracker to record pupil progress and achievement half termly across all areas of the curriculum within both the core and foundation subjects.

At Stokenham Area Primary School we have an Assessment Milestones Action Plan in place to ensure consistency and cohesion in implementing our assessment procedures. We will continue to develop and refine our systems and practices as more information about assessment principles and practices requirements become available, before making a final decision about which assessment system best meets the needs of our children.

If parents wish any further clarification about our methods of assessment, please could they contact the Executive Headteacher Sue Jezard at: stokenham@southhamsfederation.org.uk