



Sparkenhoe

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Assessment without levels

As many of you will be aware, the way children are assessed has changed. The Department for Education have removed assessing with levels for children in primary schools. This means that children will no longer be assessed against the national curriculum levels that parents are familiar with.

Years 1 to 6

Children in Years 1 to 6 are all taught using the New National Curriculum which has higher expectations. Children are assessed using the age related expectations for each year.

Assessments for the children will now be reported as:

- Above age related expectation
- Within age related expectation
- Below age related expectation

Teachers use the National Curriculum statements to assess children continuously. Progress towards meeting these statements is recorded regularly in our assessment system (Target Tracker). Teachers make judgements based on assessment throughout the year, termly assessments and tests.

In our assessment system the National Curriculum statements are organised into Bands from 1 to 6. There is a Band for each year group so the majority of children in Year 1 will be working in Band 1, majority of Year 2 children in Band 2, up to Year 6 which is Band 6.

The New Curriculum focuses on ensuring children have mastery of the concepts and skills they learn. This means, children will not be assessed in Bands that are above their age group. Instead, the focus is on children developing a deeper understanding. Staff continue to differentiate activities to ensure that the needs of all children are met.

The Bands are broken into steps:

- Beginning and Beginning +
- Within and Within+
- Secure and Secure +

As a rough guide, children who are assessed as within + or secure at the **end of the year** are considered to be working within age related expectation.

Children who are beginning or just within the age band will be reported as below age related expectation. This is similar to the national curriculum levels where some children were working at levels not expected for their age. All children are different and progress at a different pace.

Children who are assessed as Secure+ are considered to be working above age related expectation.

Children may not fall exactly into the same band as the majority of their year group as all children are different. However, this is no different than the national curriculum levels.

Progress is measured from the previous year. Expected progress is 6 steps from age band to the next.

Years 2 and 6

Both Year 2 and Year 6 will be assessed against the new curriculum in May 2016. They will be sitting new tests in reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling. We will be having information sessions regarding these in the Spring term.

Outcomes for Year 2 and 6 will be reported as a raw test score, a scaled score and whether the national expected standard has been met.

Teacher assessments will report whether children are:

Working towards the expected standard

Working at the expected standard

Working at greater depth within the expected standard.