

St Francis Catholic Primary Approach to Assessment 2014-15

Across our school we will ensure that;

- *Assessment is fair, inclusive and free from bias.*
- *Assessment is open, honest and transparent.*
- *Assessment secures high expectations for all.*
- *Assessment is appropriate to age, task and desired information.*
- *Assessment is accurate and consistent.*
- *Assessment supports comparison with other schools, both locally and nationally.*
- *Assessment outcomes provide meaningful and understandable information for pupils, parents and school staff*

Our approach to assessment

- All staff are regularly trained in our approach to assessment.
- We have a leader who is responsible for assessment.
- Our assessments embodies, through agreed criteria, a pathway of progress and development for every child.
- Assessment also places achievement in context against nationally standardised criteria and expected standards.
- Our assessment processes support;
 - pupils in developing their learning;
 - parents in supporting children with their learning;
 - teachers in planning teaching and learning;
 - school leaders and governors in planning and allocating resources
- Judgements are formed according to common principles and processes to ensure consistency and draws on a range of evidence.
- Assessment judgements are moderated by experienced professionals to ensure their accuracy.

Our method of assessment

- Assessment serves many purposes, but the main purpose of assessment in our school is to help teachers, parents and pupils plan their next steps in learning.
- We also use the outcomes of assessment to check and support our teaching standards and help us improve.
- Through working with other schools and using external tests and assessments, we will compare our performance with that of

other schools.

- We assess pupils' depth of understanding against agreed and concrete descriptions of what a pupil is expected to know and be able to do, based on the National Curriculum descriptors
 - Assessment criteria are arranged into a hierarchy, setting out what children are normally expected to have achieved by the end of each year.
 - The achievement of each pupil is assessed against all the relevant criteria at appropriate times of the school year.
 - Each pupil is assessed as either [*Emerging*, *Met* or *Exceeding*] against each relevant criterion contained in our expectations for that year.
 - Where a pupil is assessed as Developing or Mastering their needs will be met through support or challenge. Where pupils are assessed as working 'well below' or 'well above' expectations additional provision will be considered.
 - Assessment judgements are recorded and backed by a body of evidence created using observations, records of work and testing.
- Assessment judgements are moderated by colleagues in school and by colleagues in other schools to make sure our assessments are fair, reliable and valid.

Our use of assessment

- Teachers use the outcomes of our assessments to summarise and analyse attainment and progress for their pupils and classes.
- Teachers use this data to plan the learning for every pupil to ensure they meet or exceed expectations. Teachers and leaders analyse the data across the 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 stretched.
- The information from assessment is communicated to parents and pupils on a termly basis through a structured conversation. Parents and pupils receive rich, qualitative profiles of what has been achieved and indications of what they need to do next.
- We celebrate all achievements across a broad and balanced curriculum, including sport, art and performance, behaviour, and social and emotional development.