



Marshbrook First School & Marshmallows Assessment Policy January 2023

(See also Feedback and Marking Policy)

1. Introduction

We believe that effective assessment provides information to improve teaching and learning. To do this, we undertake two different, but complementary types of assessment: assessment *for* learning and assessment *of* learning.

We give our children regular feedback on their learning so that they understand what it is that they need to do to improve. We aim to make learning visible to the pupils and develop their assessment capability to empower them to take action to improve their performance.

2. Assessment *for* learning (formative assessment)

This involves the use of assessment in the classroom to raise pupil achievement. It is based on the idea that pupils will improve 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). Pupils have skills grids to make their learning visible and support them in this process. Opportunities for this type of assessment are identified in planning and take place on a daily basis. Peer and self-assessment is encouraged throughout the school.

3. Assessment *of* learning (summative assessment)

This type of assessment takes place at the end of a unit of work, of a term or year, or of a key stage and involves judging performance against given standards. We use the following tests in each year group to support summative judgements:

Nursery: 2 Year Old Checks are carried out with children aged between two and three within the first term of starting Nursery.

Reception: Baseline Assessment and end of year standardised tests in Maths and English.

Year 1: Phonics Screening Check and end of term standardised tests in Maths and English.

Year 2: SATs, Phonics Screening retakes and end of term standardised tests in Maths and English.

Year 3: End of term standardised tests in Maths and English.

Year 4: End of term standardised tests in Maths and English and Times Tables Check.

4. Recording and Tracking

EYFS

Children's progress is tracked right from the time they start in Nursery. In the EYFS "assessment involves practitioners observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations."

[Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage - 2017]

Parents are involved in the child's learning and support teacher assessment. Once in Reception class, information from individual trackers is placed on the school's information management system (Please refer to Early Years Foundation Stage Policy for further information)

Years 1 to 4

Ongoing formative assessment is shared with the children and recorded on skills grids for all subjects. These, along with other evidence is used to make a judgement about the level at which the children are working. This information for reading, writing and maths is then collated at the end of each term,

to enable progress to be tracked and analysed.

The key assessment criteria for other subjects are shared with children through their foundation subject skills grids. Pupils are encouraged to self-assess against the learning objectives in their assessment booklets. SOLO taxonomy is used in lessons to differentiate and provide opportunities to deepen learning. Teachers use the success criteria in pupils' books to indicate the level of understanding or skill a pupil has demonstrated. The teacher then uses this information to provide a best fit end of year summative judgement, which is reported to parents and recorded in the assessment booklet.

5. Consistency

Teachers and subject leaders within school make judgements about the standards of the children's work. All our teachers moderate these standards with each other, so that they have a common understanding of the expectations in each subject. Standardised tests are used to support judgements in Maths and English in all year groups. By doing this we ensure that we make consistent judgements about standards in the school. In school moderation sessions are carried out regularly via staff meetings. Inter-school sessions are also held with the other schools in our collaboration. End of KS1 judgements are moderated externally by the Local Authority when selected.

6. Target-setting

We use national comparative data at the end of Reception class and Year 2, book trawls and standardised test data in years 1-4 to analyse gaps in learning and identify areas for improvement. Findings are then used to set school targets and inform the School Development Plan.

At the start of each year, the child's class teacher sets individual pupil targets for reading, writing and mathematics. These targets should be aspirational, and set high expectations which challenge, motivate and inspire pupils to achieve their best. These targets are shared with parents in the Autumn and Spring term. Termly assessments are used to determine whether pupils are on track to achieve their targets. Data is analysed to identify underperforming individuals and/or groups so that appropriate intervention measures can be put in place.

9. Reporting to parents

Each term we offer parents the opportunity to have a consultation with their child's teacher. We also hold termly 'sharing time' sessions after school at which children can bring their parent/carer into their classroom and share the work they have been doing with them. Teachers are available if parents have any questions regarding their child's performance.

In the Autumn and Spring terms we provide parents with a written, interim report informing them of their child's targets and 'visible learner skills'. During the summer term we give all parents a detailed written report of their child's progress and achievements during the year.

We offer parents of pupils in EYFS opportunities to discuss their child's learning with the teacher through half-termly open mornings.

10 Inclusion and assessment for learning

We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude pupils and use performance data to help us measure how successful we have been.

11 Monitoring and review

Our assessment co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This policy will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if necessary.

To be reviewed: January 2024