



**Respect for all. Learners for life**



# **Assessing Without Levels:**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Information for Parents and Carers**

**September 2015**

**(This information is subject to change. School will keep you informed on changes)**

**Assessment is not meant to be used as a measure of your child's ability at school but as a means to improve their ability to learn; their knowledge, their understanding and their skills.**

### **Assessing Without Levels.**

#### **Why did the Government change assessment and remove levels?**

The Government believed that pupils should be able to demonstrate deep learning of key concepts in education and that the previous curriculum and assessment system did not allow for this to happen in the depth they wanted.

The new curriculum focuses on fewer things in greater detail in order to focus on understanding key areas and concepts fully. Therefore, assessment needed to change in line with curriculum changes, so that it can assess whether children have understood the concepts presented to them at key times in education rather than the 'level' they are at or the pace at which they 'move up through' the level.

Tim Oates, Head of the Expert Panel for the review of the National Curriculum, explained that assessment needed to change as the level system encouraged children to be levelled as a 'level' and that it became a race to get children to move through the levels. Furthermore, they wanted to move away from the notion of a child being a 'level' because of a one off test score or a 'best fit' level descriptor. The DfE refers to concerns about the validity and reliability of levels and sub levels as a reason for the change.

## How will my child be assessed?

Teachers will constantly monitor and assess pupils. This will be tracked throughout the year. The final judgement will be made by the teacher at the end of the academic year, once all pupils have completed the year group's programme of study. Children will be given a performance descriptor dependent on how they have applied the skills and knowledge delivered during the year groups programme of study.

### Performance Descriptor

<b>Emerging/Working Towards Expected</b>	Applies some knowledge and skill with some support.
<b>Expected</b>	Applies most knowledge and skill
<b>Exceeding/Mastery</b>	Consistently and securely applies knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts across the curriculum

## Will my child have to sit a test?

In the summer term 2016, **children at the end of Key Stage 1 will sit new SATs papers**. That means that if your child is in Year 2, they will be among the first pupils to take the new test. SATs have been overhauled in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to reflect the changes to the national curriculum, which was introduced from September 2014.

**At the end of Year 2, children will take SATs in:**

Reading

English grammar, punctuation and spelling

Maths

Miss Oakley and Miss Haynes will be delivering Maths and English workshops to support your child at home. Extra information will be on the school website to support and guide you at home.

### **How will the tests be marked?**

Although the tests are set externally, they will be marked by teachers within the school. The children will be given a standardised score. Teacher assessments will also be used to build up a picture of your child's learning and achievements. In addition, your child will receive an overall result saying whether they have achieved the required standard in the tests. The Department for Education aims for 85 per cent of children to reach the required standard.

### **If you feel your child is not up to the standard, who do you talk to?**

As always, Lister Infants will continue to remain committed to providing your children with the best education. If you feel your child needs support, your first avenue is the class teacher. From there, parents can make appointments to see the school SENCO.

### **Is Lister Infants' assessment system something which the whole city uses?**

Our internal assessment system is not something being used whole city wide, as the Government wanted schools to devise their own system of internally monitoring and assessing. However, Lister Infants is part of the Local Authority Standardisation Project. We are one of 50 schools piloting a new assessment to ensure standards are consistent across schools in the city. We are using common language provided by the Local Authority.

If you require more information or wish to speak to someone about your child's attainment please speak to your child's class teacher.

#### **Useful links:**

<http://www.risingstars-uk.com/curriculumparentguide/>

<http://www.parentdish.co.uk/kids/the-new-national-curriculum-explained-for-parents/>

<http://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-national-curriculum-2014>