



Charnwood Primary School

Assessing beyond levels

From the beginning of the academic year 2014/2015, children in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 will no longer be assessed using national curriculum levels.

The Government's policy of removing level descriptors from the National Curriculum is intended to free schools from an imposed measure of pupil progress. The Department for Education has asserted that levels are not very good at helping parents understand their child's progress. In their place, from September 2014, "it will be for schools to decide how they assess pupils' progress".

Therefore, pupils in the above mentioned year groups (who will be working on the new national curriculum) will be assessed against new national curriculum programmes of study- more precisely the statements within these programmes of study.

Children will be assessed regarding how **many statements they have achieved**. They will then be given a step within an age band based on this.

An age band is akin to a 'zone' within which a child is working. If a child is in Year 1, they should be working within Band 1. If your child is in Year 2, they should be working within Band 2 and so on. If your child is working within the Band **matching** the year group that they are in, then they are broadly **working within age related expectation**.

However, some children, may be working within an age band which is lower than the their actual age e.g. a child may be in Year 5 but working within Band 3 (year 3) or a child may be in Year 3 but could be working with Band 4 (year 4).

Each age band has six steps. The diagram below shows this:

Band 3 (Year 3)

3b	3b+	3w	3w+	3s	3s+
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Your child will move across the steps within an age band once they have shown that they have achieved national curriculum statements within different programmes of study.

To do this, your child must demonstrate an understanding of the statement, and be able to demonstrate their learning in different ways to show that it is embedded.

An age band has 6 steps which are explained below:

b = beginning- the pupil is just beginning to work on the age band/year group statements and may still be working on statements from the previous year

b+ = beginning plus- the pupil is beginning to work towards achieving some of the age band/year group statements

w = working within- the pupil is beginning to achieve some year group statements within the age band/year group

w+ = working within plus- the pupil has achieved a number of age band/year group statements within the age band/year group

s = secure- the pupil has achieved most age band/year group statements

s+ = secure plus- the pupil has achieved all age band/ year group statements and may be beginning to work on the next age band's/year group's statements

By the end of the academic year, a child is assessed as being at age related expectation if they achieve w+/s or higher within the age band pertaining to their year group or higher.

At Charnwood Primary School, there will be rigorous internal moderation of teacher judgements to ensure consistency and accuracy. Moderation will also be carried out in conjunction with local schools and the local authority.

A child's progress will be tracked over the year and parents will be informed about progress at parents' meetings throughout the year and how best to support their child's learning at home.

Pupils in Years 2 and 6 will work on the new national curriculum for English, maths and science from September 2015.