

COGNITA

Assessment,
Recording
and Reporting
Policy

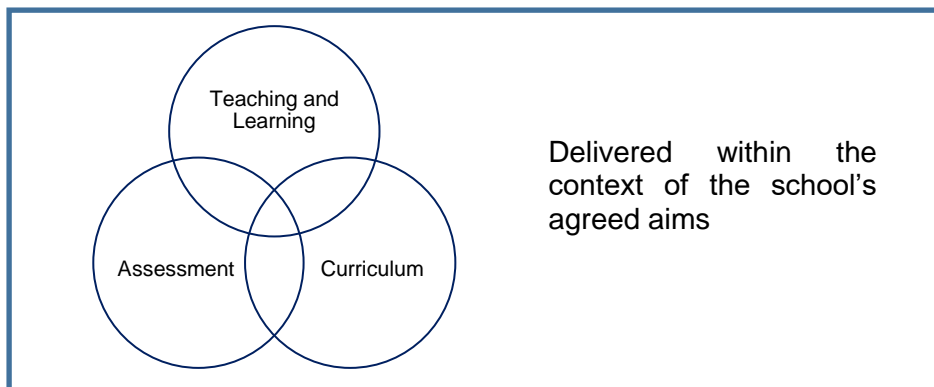


HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

September 2022

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to support the implementation of high quality and informative assessment arrangements. We see assessment as part of our core business in order to ensure that all children make the best progress possible and attain high standards. Effective assessment practice is part of a whole school pedagogy informed by the effective implementation of:



2 Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline the rationale and approach to assessment, recording and reporting in our school. This policy has four parts:
- Assessment
 - Recording assessment information
 - Reporting to parents
 - Evaluation
- 2.2 This policy applies to all pupils, including those in the Early Years.
- 2.3 This policy is compliant with the following regulatory requirements, as outlined in the Independent School Standards:
- Teachers systematically assess pupils and make use of assessment to plan and modify provision for them.
 - As stated in Paragraph 3:
The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the teaching at the school:
 - (a) enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;
 - (g) demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress;
 - As stated in Paragraph 4:
The standard in this paragraph is met where the proprietor ensures that a framework for pupil performance to be evaluated, by reference to the school's own aims as provided to parents or national norms, or to both, is in place.

3 Assessment: Types of Assessment

- 3.1 We assess in different ways and with different purposes during the academic year. We use three forms of assessment:

Formative assessment	In-school summative assessment	Standardised summative assessment
<p>Used by teachers to evaluate pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding on a day-to-day and lesson by lesson basis and to tailor teaching accordingly. <i>This includes: quick recap questions, scrutiny of pupils' work, providing feedback and pupils' responding, observational assessment, quizzes and self-assessment.</i></p> <p><i>For Early Years, assessments are carried out through observations of the child's progress.</i></p>	<p>Used by teachers to evaluate how much a pupil has learned at the end of a teaching unit and should include, where relevant, internal standardisation. <i>This includes: end of unit assessments, spelling tests, mental maths test, mid or end of year exams, reviews for pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities).</i></p> <p><i>In Reception, some of the above in-school assessments are also used. All Early Year pupils receive a termly summary of their progress.</i></p>	<p>Externally set, marked and standardised. Also validated by an external body. <i>This includes: GL Assessments (PTiE, PTiM), CAT4 tests, GCSE.</i></p> <p><i>In Reception, end of year results are reported to the Local Authority.</i></p>

- 3.2 All summative assessment should be used formatively. Teachers should routinely analyse summative assessment and identify the next steps for subjects and specific pupils. Senior leaders should routinely analyse summative assessments and identify action points to inform School Improvement Plans.

4 Principles of Assessment

- 4.1 The primary principle of assessment is that it should be fit for the purpose intended. Assessment is an integral part of teaching and lies at the heart of promoting pupils' learning. Assessment should provide information, which is clear, valid, reliable and free from bias. Assessment should be used to move learning forward and facilitate responsive teaching. The guiding principles below are used to help ensure that we maximise the impact of our assessment.

5 Principles of Formative Assessment

- 5.1 Formative assessment should:
- Give 'of the moment' information about pupils' knowledge and understanding of a topic, skill or concept;
 - Be interactive and lead to dialogue;
 - Help pupils understand what they have done well and what they need to do to improve;
 - Be inclusive of all abilities;
 - Support immediate planning to improve progress and attainment; and
 - Support home learning and home-school partnership.

6 Principles of in-school and Standardised Summative Assessment

- 6.1 These forms of assessment should be used:
- Formatively by teachers to plan for the next steps, target set and precision teach;
 - To triangulate wider assessment judgement;

- To evidence progress over time;
- To compare cohorts and groups of pupils;
- To assess against agreed benchmark standards; and
- As a basis for reporting.

7 **Mastery and Depth**

- 7.1 The current version of the National Curriculum is predicated on a different assumption than in previous versions where there was an expectation of 'acceleration', i.e. moving children on through levels and sublevels regardless of the security of their learning. Now, we are looking for depth and mastery in learning. This does not exclude acceleration but 'moving on' should never be at the expense of depth and mastery.
- 7.2 A mastery approach to learning is at the heart of the National Curriculum and also part of great pedagogy. This means that teachers need to think, plan and teach differently. Teachers need to consider how to ensure that their pupils have opportunities to develop depth and mastery in their learning before considering acceleration. By promoting depth, learning is more likely to become secure and embedded.
- 7.3 Our school therefore ensures that our pupils can evidence the meeting of the 'Minimum Expectations' as set by Cognita, which are linked to National Curriculum assessment criteria and are included in the document 'Minimum Expectations for English and Mathematics'. Our staff understand that this document has been designed to identify the minimum expectations and should not be used to put a ceiling on our pupils' achievement and attainment.
- 7.4 The 'Minimum Expectations for English and Mathematics' document does not define a set curriculum model for any Cognita school and our school will ensure that there are appropriate schemes of work and curriculum maps in place to guide both coverage and expectations. Although end of year group expectations are indicated, these are viewed as a guide. The absolute minimum expectations are those for the end of each Key Stage. Our school may therefore decide to move the content from year to year to meet the needs of different groups of pupils or a change of context for the school. It is anticipated that, as a Cognita school, we should constantly aim to exceed these minimum expectations and that the content of the 'Minimum Expectations' document should not cap expectation in our school.
- 7.5 In relation to mastery in learning, we look for the following characteristics:
- Retention: Long term retention and use of learning.
 - Application: Independent application in a manner the context demands. Critically evaluating, taking learning from one area and applying in another.
 - Meta-cognition: Knowing why and how to recall knowledge and skills in order to utilise.
 - Connection: Making connections between subjects and aspects of learning.
 - Approach: Evidence of leading own learning. Teaching others. Ability to explain own learning and the skills being utilised. Flexibility in use of learning.
 - Innovation: Using learning in a different and innovate context.
- 7.6 At times, pupils exceed well beyond Age Related Expectations. In these instances, teachers will look to the next year's expectations as outlined in the National Curriculum and consider how increasing the breadth of learning and understanding can be achieved.

8 In-school and Standardised Summative Assessment

8.1 Our key summative assessment points over the year, whether in-school or standardised, are identified in the following assessment planner so that all staff and pupils can see and prepare for them.

Year Group	Assessment	When	How is the data used?
R	Wellcomm	Autumn 1	Assessment to establish stage of development of pupils on entry. Implementation of next steps for each child. Ongoing Speech and Language assessment throughout the year used as a toolkit for screening and intervention. Interventions implemented where necessary.
Y7	GL Cat 4	Autumn 1	All Cognita schools in the UK and International schools who follow the English National Curriculum, GCSE, A Level and IB use, the CAT4 to understand students' abilities and likely academic potential. This is used as a baseline test and can be combined with the progress test to get a value added measure.
Y10	GL Cat 4	Autumn 1	All Cognita schools in the UK and International schools who follow the English National Curriculum, GCSE, A Level and IB use, the CAT4 to understand students' abilities and likely academic potential. This is used as a baseline test and can be combined with the progress test to get a value added measure.
Y1 – Y9	Progress Tests in English (PTiE)	Summer 2	The tests are linked to the new National Curriculum and measure technical English skills in spelling, grammar, punctuation and reading comprehension. The data is used to assist with target setting and identify intervention. The data is also used in conjunction with ongoing formative and summative assessments to assist in final end of year judgements.
Y1 – Y9	Progress Tests in Maths (PTiM)	Summer 2	The tests are linked to the new National Curriculum and assess mathematical knowledge and applications through reasoning and problem solving. The data is used to assist with target setting and identify intervention. The data is used in conjunction with ongoing formative and summative assessments to assist in final end of year judgements.
Y6	National Curriculum Tests (Internally marked)	Summer 1	Pupils are assessed in English (reading and grammar) and mathematics (arithmetic and reasoning). The results are used to support teacher judgement at the end of Key Stage 2.

9 Integrity of Assessment Information

9.1 In order for our assessment processes to be robust and valid, we ensure that all staff are competent in the use of assessment. We do this by:

- Using clear assessment criteria;
- Assigning time to support the training of staff in what constitutes robust assessment;

- Assigning time for the moderation of assessment judgement; and
- Triangulating judgements from a range of assessments, including from learning walks and pupil work.

9.2 A key strategy for ensuring that assessment judgements are valid and reliable is the use of in-school moderation. Moderation is used to ensure that the judgement of all relevant staff about the quality of a piece of work or an assessment piece is the same.

9.3 Where possible, our school will look for opportunities to moderate our assessment judgements with colleagues from different schools. Moderation in the Senior School takes place within subject departments and across Cognita schools. GCSE subject teachers are given the opportunity to attend training and meetings hosted by examination boards to ensure consistency of marking in the Senior School.

10 Use of Formative Assessment

10.1 Formative assessment takes place on a daily basis and is used to inform the pupil and the teacher on pupil progress. This can take place through teacher and pupil dialogue, marking, listening to pupils read, observations, discussing work, questions and answers and self-assessment. Teachers will inform pupils regularly of the next steps in their learning. Teachers will also enlist the support and guidance of the school SENDCo and MAT Co-ordinator when assessing pupils with specific learning needs.

All Early Year pupils receive a baseline assessment upon entry to the setting, which includes a 'Wellcomm' assessment of their language development and understanding. Observational assessments are then made throughout the year, based on what each pupil evidences through their play and talk in and around the setting. These observational assessments link to the EYFS 'Ages and Stages' and are used to assess each pupil's progress and development in each area of learning. Each pupil has a digital learning journey which illustrates their development and achievements throughout the year. Parents can view this digital learning journey from home and are welcome to add to the portfolio and/or comment on their child's achievements. Parents are considered to play an important role in their child's development and are given opportunities to discuss their child's progress at regular parent consultation meetings, as well as at the beginning or the end of the day. At Hydesville we believe that pupils should be inspired to lead their own learning, which is why children are encouraged to explore and develop their own personal interests through planned, purposeful child-initiated activities. At the end of the Reception Year children are then finally assessed, based on continual formative assessments and knowledge of the child, against the Early Learning Goals. These results are then reported to the local authority.

The school promotes challenge for all pupils by differentiation to individual pupil needs in a way that is understandable for pupils so both the teacher and pupils are able to measure or assess the extent of their learning throughout lessons. More able and talented and SEND pupils' work is carefully planned to ensure they are stretched and challenged appropriately. Subject content is broken into sequential steps with clearly specified objectives pursued until they are achieved. Learners must demonstrate a high level of success before progressing onto the next unit of content, with time given to re-enforcing concepts and ensuring mastery alongside new content being introduced. Those who do not reach the required level are provided with additional intervention, peer support, small group discussions, or homework, so that they can reach the expected standard.

Plenaries are used appropriately at the end of lessons and mini-plenaries used during lessons to assess learning and also to promote pupils' ability to reflect on how they have learned as well as what they have learned.

Pupils are given opportunities for self-assessment and peer assessment to improve their understanding of the content being taught. Oral and written feedback given by the teacher enables them to improve their learning. Teachers are reflective of their own practice and adapt teaching and learning methodologies based on assessment of pupils' learning.

In the Senior School GCSE grade descriptors are used to help pupils to understand what they are aiming for. Exemplar pieces of work is shared with pupils to model expectations and high standards.

To meet the expectation of the new curriculum, the school has adopted the following vocabulary which is used in reports to parents in Years 1 to 6:

Emerging - good basic level of attainment reached towards EOY expectations

Expected – secure and consistent attainment against EOY expectations

Mastery – deep learning – can apply in mastery context

In the Senior School, a 9 – 1 grading system is used throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, so that understanding of the standard of work being produced is understood in relation to GCSE outcomes.

11 Use of in-school Summative Assessment

- 11.1 On-going summative tests inform the teacher how pupils are performing after a short period of time. These tests include weekly spellings, mental maths, end of unit tests, unaided writing tasks and controlled assessments (senior school only).

These tests form a picture of pupil progress and the results are used together with formative assessment to form a judgement on pupil progress which is shared with pupils and parents to encourage home school learning. Pupils are regularly tracked on the school's tracking system and the school will adopt appropriate intervention strategies to capture underperformance. Teachers will provide intervention and set individual targets to promote pupil progress.

In Years 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10, CAT 4 Tests are used to inform pupils, parents and teachers of the individuals' strengths and weaknesses in subject areas and identify pupils for intervention and support.

In the Senior School, performance indicators are issued to all KS3 pupils and parents at the start of the academic year which details all of the subject knowledge and skills which will be assessed and reported on throughout the year. Progress is measured through in-school summative assessments in the short term in each subject through appropriate retrieval of content and skills-based tasks. These take the form of spelling tests in English, MFL, Humanities and topic based tests in Sciences and Mathematics.. Records are kept of all test results and pupils and parents are informed of these. Short-term and medium-term summative assessments are used to make judgements about progress during the year at each half term, both in terms of the content covered and the pupils' grasp of subject and inter-subject skills.

Summative information given to parents is based on a variety of evidence, used to inform teaching and learning by indicating where misconceptions have occurred and where support and/or challenge may be needed to ensure pupils' mastery of essential concepts in the performance indicators.

For Years 1 to 9, progress is measured year on year using GL Assessments (PTiE and PTiM) as well as teacher assessment judgements tracked on the school's system. Strengths and weaknesses are shared in pupil's written reports and verbally at parents' evening. At the end of Key Stage 4, pupils take GCSEs which are externally validated. Results are shared collectively with staff at the start of the new academic year and any area of improvement is used to inform teaching and learning.

12 Inclusion

- 12.1 Our school has high expectations of every pupil, including those with SEN and/or disability. Pupils with SEN are assessed appropriately according to their need. Adaptations will be made where this enables a more valid and robust assessment outcome. Pupils with SEN are expected to make the same rate of progress as other pupils.
- 12.2 The identification of more able and talented pupils is a process which the whole teaching and support staff participate in, as well as parents, carers and the pupils themselves. Assessment data also forms part of this process. We expect our MAT pupils to make at least the same progress as their peers.

13 Recording Assessment

- 13.1 It is essential that we have a coherent and understood system for recording assessment outcomes. Within our school we record data each half term using OTrack in Years 1 to 6 and in TEAMS for Years 7 to 11. The Academic Development Co-ordinators publish a calendar of assessment, recording and reporting which is shared with staff, as agreed with Heads of School. Termly progress reports are discussed at senior leadership meetings and relevant sections shared with staff accordingly.

14 Reporting to Parents

- 14.1 We value our partnership with parents and reports are one way of ensuring that parents have clear information about both pastoral and academic matters in relation to their child.
- 14.2 Reports to parents do not replace our regular dialogue with them. Any parent with a query or concern is always invited to contact the school and teachers, Heads of Schools or Headteacher. Throughout the academic year we report to our parents in the following ways:

Full school reports are issued once a year for all pupils in the school. Pupils in Years 1 to 6 also receive an interim report during the spring term. In addition, pupils in Years 7 to 11 receive a progress data report most half terms.

- 14.3 Parents' evening is an opportunity for teaching staff to report to parents on their child's progress. In the Nursery and Prep School, parents' evenings take place every term. In the Senior School, one meeting with all academic staff is planned in the school year (two for Year 11) and a second occasion allows pastoral concerns to be shared with the tutor.

In addition, Year 7 pupils also have an induction meeting scheduled for the autumn term. Year 9 pupils have an 'Options Evening' as well as their parents' evening. The purpose is to provide guidance on pupils' suitability on their choice of subjects. A Target Setting meeting also takes place in the Senior School for Years 7 to 11 which gives teachers the opportunity to discuss pupil progress and target setting.

Arrangements for the reporting schedule and parents evening are communicated to staff and communication is made with parents via the website, parentcomms, letters and the school calendar.

Appropriate guidance to staff on the criteria and how to complete reports can be provided by the Academic Development Co-ordinators.

15 Evaluation

- 15.1 This policy complies with the Independent School Standards Regulations. As is expected of us, we publish particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations.
- 15.2 The school reviews the attainment and achievement of pupils through the Achievement Narrative. This document is reviewed regularly and ensures oversight of achievement trends within the school between agreed start and end points. Notable groups are monitored and tracked within this document. Schools share their Achievement Narrative with their General Manager and European Director of Education for challenge.

16 Responsibility

- 16.1 The person with responsibility for the overview and yearly evaluation of this policy is the Headteacher. However, all staff are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and acted on.
- 16.2 When evaluating the use and impact of this policy, our school leaders will evaluate the extent to which:
- Assessment information is gathered and used to inform teaching and learning, including ensuring that pupils falling behind or those with SEN and/or disabilities are supported in their learning; and
 - Assessment information is shared with parents to help them support their children.
- 16.3 When evaluating the accuracy and impact of assessment, our school leaders will evaluate the extent to which:
- Teachers use assessment for establishing pupils' starting points;
 - Teachers use assessment to modify teaching so that pupils can achieve their potential by the end of year or key stage;
 - Assessment draws on a range of evidence of what pupils know, understand and can do across the school's curriculum;
 - Teachers make consistent judgements about pupils' progress and attainment, for example within a subject, across a year group and between year groups; and
 - The use of assessment is leading to the improved progress of all pupils.
- 16.4 When evaluating the effectiveness of leadership and management, Cognita, through our School Improvement Partners, General Managers, and European Director of Education will consider:
- The effectiveness of the actions our school leaders take to secure and sustain improvements to teaching, learning, attainment and progress; and
 - How effectively our school leaders monitor the progress of groups of pupils (e.g. gender, SEN, more able, EAL) to ensure that none fall behind and underachieve.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy

Ownership and consultation	
Document sponsor (role)	Group Director of Education
Document author (name)	Simon Camby
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