

St John Bosco Catholic
Primary School

Primary Assessment Policy

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Statement of intent

At St John Bosco Catholic Primary School, we believe that in order to facilitate teaching and learning, a comprehensive assessment strategy is essential.

We are committed to:

- Ensuring early and accurate identification of individual needs.
- Involving all staff, pupils and parents/carers in the assessment process.
- Ensuring pupils have individual targets.
- Regularly monitoring progress.
- Setting individual pupil targets which are SMART:
 - Specific
 - Measurable
 - Achievable
 - Realistic/relevant
 - Time bound
- Acknowledging achievement.
- Working with other agencies as needed.

Principles

Using the principles and processes of assessment, our aim is to:

- Monitor progress and support learning.
- Celebrate the achievements of pupils and identify areas for development.
- Inform pupils of their progress and give guidance on how to improve.
- Guide planning, teaching, additional support, curriculum development and the creation of resources.
- Communicate with parents/carers and the wider community about our pupils' achievement.
- Provide information to ensure continuity when a pupil changes year group or leaves the school.
- Comply with statutory requirements.

Rationale

The process of assessment is central to helping pupils to progress and fulfil their potential. It is also necessary to provide a framework to ensure that learning objectives can be set and used to inform lesson planning, resources and support.

Schemes of assessment also inform whole-school objectives and training. Assessment should be integrated methodically into teaching strategies, so that progress can be monitored and barriers to learning can be identified at pupil, group, class or whole-school level.

The assessment process can only be successful if regular reviews take place and plans are communicated and actioned at all levels. Our chosen assessment systems are free from bias, stereotyping and generalisation in relation to gender, class and race.

Our assessment procedures are compliant with the SEND Code of Practice; however, we do analyse the progress of different cohorts of pupils, to ensure that we meet the needs of individuals and specific groups.

This policy also complies with the recommendations proposed in the Assessment Without Levels Commission Report¹ and DfE guidance on assessment and accountability reforms for primary schools.²

Signed by:

_____ Headteacher

Date: _____

_____ Chair of governors

Date: _____

Review date: _____

¹ DfE and Standards and Testing Agency (2015) 'Commission on Assessment Without Levels: Final Report'

² DfE (2014) 'Reforming assessment and accountability for primary schools'

1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has been created with regard to the following DfE guidance:
 - DfE (2014) 'Reforming assessment and accountability for primary schools'
 - DfE (2017) 'Primary assessment in England'
 - DfE (2017) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'

2. Key roles and responsibilities

- 2.1. The governing body has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Assessment Policy and procedures.
- 2.2. The governing body has overall responsibility for ensuring that the Assessment Policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- 2.3. The headteacher has responsibility for handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedure Policy.
- 2.4. The headteacher (Ed Masterson) is responsible for the day-to-day implementation and management of the Assessment Policy and procedures.
- 2.5. The assessment leader (Mandy Grubham) is responsible for collecting and interpreting assessment data, implementing systems for identifying, assessing and reviewing Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for all pupils, and updating the senior leadership team on the effectiveness of the provision, using local, national and school level assessment data.
- 2.6. The SENCO (Jacky Briscoe) is responsible for maintaining the SEND register, coordinating individual support, handling pupil records received from mainstream schools, reviewing ILPs and managing statutory assessment.
- 2.7. Class teachers are responsible for setting individual targets, maintaining accurate pupil records, reporting progress to parents/carers, and contributing to ILPs.
- 2.8. All staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, are responsible for following the Assessment Policy. They are also responsible for ensuring the policy is implemented fairly and consistently, and for sharing relevant information with the SENCO and headteacher.
- 2.9. Pupils are expected to engage fully in the assessment process by always trying their hardest in both formative and summative assessments, and by following exam regulations specified by examination boards.
- 2.10. Parents/carers are expected to engage with the school in the assessment process by attending consultation evenings and meetings, and by encouraging pupils to do their best in their day-to-day schooling and in summative assessments.

3. Training of staff

- 3.1. We recognise that early intervention can improve both achievement and self-worth. As such, teachers will receive training in identifying pupils potentially at risk of not meeting targets.
- 3.2. Teachers and support staff will receive training on the Assessment Policy as part of their new starter induction.
- 3.3. Teachers and support staff will receive annual training as part of their development.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. St John Bosco Catholic Primary School accepts the following definitions for the purpose of this policy:

“**Assessment**” is defined as:

- Activities undertaken by teachers, and/or by pupils assessing themselves, which provide information to use as feedback.
- Activities which enable modification of teaching and learning activities to improve achievement.
- Activities which lead to formative or summative feedback.

Diagnostic assessment: Any activity which aims to quantify what pupils already know about a topic and gives teachers initial data to measure progress from.

Formative assessment: Any activity which assesses progress throughout the school term and guides teachers in how to modify their teaching to help their pupils achieve.

Summative assessment: Activities which assess final achievement at the end of the year.

Individual Learning Plan (ILP): An individualised plan which shows how a learner will get from their starting point on a learning journey, to the desired end point.

Two stars and a wish feedback: A strategy which identifies two positive comments related to learning objectives/success criteria, and one note where the success criteria was not met or a suggestion/question to encourage further thinking.

5. Types of assessment

- 5.1. St John Bosco Catholic Primary School acknowledges that assessment will take place in a range of different ways for different subjects; however, all assessment will embrace the principles outlined in this policy, and therefore, assessment in some form will be evident in every lesson.
- 5.2. Types of assessment carried out include (but are not restricted to):
Termly tests

Mock SATs

Rising Stars Assessments

Spelling Tests

- 5.3. Teachers will provide regular opportunities for pupils to assess their own work and the learning of their peers. This supports pupils to be actively involved in their learning and to be able to identify their own targets for improvement. See marking policy.

6. Scheme of assessment

- 6.1. National curriculum levels have been removed and replaced with national curriculum knowledge descriptors. St John Bosco Catholic Primary School has implemented a scheme of assessment which addresses assessment without levels. SPTO is used to record assessment data and track the progress made by children.
- 6.2. Summative assessments are used to assess what a pupil can do at a particular point in the learning journey. Performance in summative assessments will also be measured against age-related expectations.

7. Formal tests

- 7.1. At St John Bosco Catholic Primary School we aim to produce independent learners; encouraging our pupils to be creative and develop a lifetime love for learning.
- 7.2. To ensure that pupils are ready for their secondary education when they leave St John Bosco Catholic Primary School, we will continually monitor the progress of pupils through teacher-led assessments and statutory formal assessments.
- 7.3. Pupils in Year 2 and 6 will undertake national curriculum tests, commonly called SATs. The results give an opportunity to compare pupils nationally, which will ensure that schools are helping pupils to learn, understand and make progress in English and mathematics.

Early years foundation stage (EYFS)

- 7.4. In reception, an Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) will be completed for each pupil. The EYFSP summarises and describes pupil attainment at the end of the EYFS.
- 7.5. Each child's level of development will be assessed against the early learning goals. The EYFSP will indicate whether a pupil is meeting expected standards of development, if they are exceeding the expected levels, or if they are not yet meeting the expected levels ('emerging').
- 7.6. The school's Year 1 teachers will be provided with a copy of the EYFSP, along with a short commentary on each pupil's skills and abilities; this copy will help to inform a dialogue between Reception and Year 1 teachers regarding each pupil's stage of development.

- 7.7. Parents will also receive the results of the EYFSP, and will be given an opportunity to discuss any concerns with the teacher who completed the profile.
- 7.8. Early years providers will supply a copy of the EYFSP to the LA on request. LAs are required to return the profile to the relevant Government department.
- 7.9. The EYFSP will reflect:
- Ongoing observations
 - All relevant records held by the setting
 - Discussions with parents
 - Discussions with any other adults whom the teacher or parents of the pupil judge to offer a useful contribution to a pupil's attainment.
- 7.10. An EYFS progress check will be completed for every pupil between two-years-old and three-years-old. This progress check will identify a child's strengths and areas where the child's progress is less than expected. The progress check will be shared with parents in a written summary.

KS1

- 7.11. Towards the end of Year 1, pupils will complete a phonics screening check. Any pupils who do not meet the required standard will be required to repeat a phonics screening check in Year 2.
- 7.12. At the end of KS1, pupils will undergo teacher assessments in mathematics and reading which will be informed by externally-set, internally-marked tests. Additionally, there is an option to complete externally-set test in English grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- 7.13. Formal tests will not be strictly timed and are likely to be incorporated into everyday classroom practice, for example, through spelling tests.
- 7.14. The proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science will be published at a national and local authority level but not at a school level.

KS2

- 7.15. At the end of KS2, formal externally-marked tests, for mathematics, English reading, and an English grammar, punctuation and spelling test, will be taken on dates specified by the examination board.
- 7.16. Teacher assessment judgements are made in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science.
- 7.17. If a pupil is absent, they will be allowed to take the formal tests up to five school days after the specified date.
- 7.18. Science sample tests are teacher assessed.

8. Target setting

- 8.1. Pupils complete diagnostic assessments at the start of the Autumn term, which inform long-term national curriculum-based learning goals. Using the results of the diagnostic assessments, pupils' mastery of the subject will be judged as 'emerging', 'expected', or 'exceeding'.
- 8.2. Pupils with SEND may follow national curriculum objectives from a younger year group's curriculum or have Sandwell Skills Ladders depending on their need and cognitive ability. Pupils will then be assessed using the associated criteria.

9. Tracking and reviewing progress

- 9.1. Formative and summative assessment milestones are recorded electronically using SIPS. National curriculum objectives are only recorded as 'achieved' when a child has fully understood them and 'working at greater depth' when a child has mastered them. In order to master an objective, pupils must be able to demonstrate that they have:
 - Learned the skill/concept
 - Practised the skill
 - Applied the skill
 - Applied the skill/knowledge in a different context
- 9.2. To assist in guiding each pupil's learning journey, data 'snap-shots' are taken at class, phase and subject level, three times a year, towards the end of each term.
- 9.3. Pupil progress meetings for each year group are scheduled termly and focus on:
 - 9.4. Reviewing the progress of all pupils.
 - 9.5. Identifying and monitoring cohorts of pupils that are underperforming.
 - 9.6. Pinpointing barriers to learning that occur across classes, e.g. attendance, punctuality, behaviour, EAL and SEND factors.
 - 9.7. Selecting intervention strategies to implement as a team to tackle barriers to learning.
 - 9.8. Creating an action plan for each class – factors affecting underachievement and the steps that will be taken to combat this.
 - 9.9. Teachers and key members of the senior leadership team meet at an 'SLT data review'. The purpose of this is to monitor pupils who were identified as underachieving in a number of subjects at pupil progress meetings, to pinpoint whole school trends relating to performance and to make decisions surrounding actions to accelerate the level of intervention for pupils who are identified as persistently underachieving.

10. Homework

- 10.1. Homework is given weekly. An outline of typical tasks and the frequency of homework is outlined in the school's Homework Policy.
- 10.2. Homework tasks are set in line with curriculum objectives and age-related expectations for each year group, and are used to formatively assess pupils' ability to practise and apply skills/knowledge learned in class.

11. Marking and feedback

- 11.1. Marking of pupils' work will follow the Marking and Feedback Policy. Effective marking of pupils' work is fundamental to ensuring that a personalised learning journey for all pupils is achieved.
- 11.2. Marking and feedback will directly relate to subject specific assessment criteria and individual learning targets. The primary aims of marking are to ensure that each pupil can progress and teachers are aware of knowledge gaps, so that they can adjust lesson planning accordingly.
- 11.3. Dedicated time will be allotted during lessons for pupils to review and respond to feedback and make improvements/corrections to work.
- 11.4. Feedback can take a variety of forms, depending on the age of the pupil, the activity undertaken and the teacher's judgement. Our aim is for pupils to have full ownership of their work and to be able to review their progress and identify their own 'next steps' (with guidance from the class teacher).
- 11.5. When marking work, teachers identify patterns of spelling and grammar mistakes. Pupils are given opportunities to make corrections to their work. Additionally, pupils are assigned the task of learning the correct spellings as homework.
- 11.6. The quality of pupils' work is rewarded and sanctioned in line with the Rewards and Sanctions Policy.
- 11.7. Achievement is rewarded in the following ways:
 - Work stickers
 - Certificates
 - House Points
 - Marvellous Me Badges

12. Records and record keeping

- 12.1. Teachers use records to review pupils' progress, set appropriate targets for the future and form the basis of reports to parents/carers.
- 12.2. At the EYFS, each child's developments and achievements are recorded in [the EYFSP which is based on teachers' ongoing observations and assessments.
- 12.3. Summative assessment records, such as KS1 and KS2 examination results, are kept electronically and held for six years after the year of the examination.
- 12.4. Formative assessment records, such as pupil work, are held for one year.

13. Standardisation and moderation

13.1. The process of moderation is an essential part of the assessment system. Teachers are involved in the moderation process to ensure agreement on criteria for progress in the following ways:

- Collaboration with colleagues
- Partnership with colleagues from other schools within the local area
- Attendance at LA sessions to ensure judgements are in line with other schools/academies

13.2. Portfolios of moderated work are kept securely by curriculum leaders.

14. Reporting

14.1. Records promote and ensure the following:

- Positive home/school relationships
- Information for parents/carers
- Opportunities for discussion with parents/carers
- In some cases, information for partnership agencies
- Targets for pupils

14.2. A written report for each pupil is sent to parents/carers each term. Reports outline pupils' progress in the core and foundation subjects of the national curriculum. Teachers make comments on the attainment of each pupil in terms of national age-related expectations. Targets for literacy and numeracy are also set.

14.3. For pupils at the end of key stages 1 and 2, annual reports will be sent to parents containing additional information, including the results of national curriculum tests, along with information about scaled scores and whether or not their child met the national expected standard.

14.4. Parents are invited to attend formal consultations (parent/carer evenings) with the teacher during the Autumn and Spring terms. Parents/carers are also welcome to discuss the progress of their child with class teachers or the headteacher at other times.

14.5. Class teachers or the headteacher may invite some parents for an interview to discuss their child's progress, if required.

14.6. The headteacher reports progress to governors on a termly basis, in the form of a headteacher's report.

15. Relevant policies

15.1. This policy also links to the Homework Policy, Rewards and Sanctions Policy and Marking and Feedback Policy.

16. Policy review

16.1. This policy is reviewed annually by the senior leadership team in partnership with school governors and curriculum leaders. Any necessary changes are made and communicated to all members of staff.

16.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is February 2023.

Appendix A – Marking guidance

This guidance on marking forms part of the whole-school policy for assessment and is directly linked to curriculum planning. The school is committed to using formative assessment, through assessment for learning, and uses focussed marking as the principle method for providing feedback to pupils in order to raise standards of attainment.

Formative assessment and focussed marking:

Formative assessment is based on the principle that, in order to make good progress, pupils need to be clear about the next steps in their learning.

Teachers use focussed marking to assess pupils' progress in relation to planned learning objectives and to identify pupils' strengths and gaps in their skills/knowledge. Next steps should be shared with the child, in an age-appropriate way, in order to provide feedback to the child about where they are in relation to this aim and the steps necessary to achieve the aim.

'Next steps' information is used to inform planning for subsequent lessons and to facilitate the setting of appropriate targets for the class, group or individual. Grouping or setting should be flexible in order for teachers to effectively address the needs of pupils with similar gaps in learning.

Writing

Focussed marking of pupils' writing should relate to either the specific learning objective communicated through 'I Can!' statements', or the next step target for each pupil.

Teachers should not correct every spelling and grammatical mistake in a piece of written work, as this can be overwhelming for pupils and will rarely lead to an improvement. Up to three spelling/grammatical errors may be corrected, provided that pupils are given an opportunity to make corrections and practise spelling/grammar rules.

Maths

The main purpose for marking maths work is to identify whether pupils have grasped a mathematical concept or method and to ensure that pupils demonstrate the way calculations are worked out. Teachers should assess the steps needed to enable pupils to make further progress.

Other subject books

Marking should be judged against the learning objective and teachers should be mindful of the child's ability in literacy to ensure high standards are maintained in all subjects.

Self-assessment

Teachers should provide regular opportunities for pupils to assess their own work and the learning of their peers. This supports pupils to be actively involved in their learning and to be able to identify their own targets for improvement. This may include:

- Peer marking against the learning objective (assessing and/or marking another pupil's work).
- Two stars and a wish (pupils identify two ways in which their work meets the learning objective and one thing that they could improve).
- Self-evaluation (e.g. traffic lights or smiley faces to indicate how the child views their work in relation to the learning objective).
- Highlighting and annotating their own or a peer's work to demonstrate appropriate use of text features.

Appendix B – Assessment materials, tools and tests

Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focussed marking• Pupil observations• Book/work scrutiny• Guided reading records• Summative tests• Teacher-planned comprehension tests/activities• Phonic phase assessments (including flashcards)
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focussed marking• Pupil observations• Book/work scrutiny• Writing samples (independent where possible)• Phonics assessment (spelling of high frequency words, 'best bet' assessment activities, observation of spelling of graphemes/alternative graphemes)• Results of class tests (weekly spelling tests)• Summative tests
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focussed marking• Pupil observations• Book/work scrutiny• Results of weekly mental maths tests• Summative tests

Appendix C – Contents of a class assessment folder

Autumn term	English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update assessment tracker for reading and writing based on focussed marking and observations of pupils' learning. • Independent writing samples. • Assessments of phonic phase for each pupil (EYFS/KS1). • Set new learning targets.
	Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going update of assessment tracker for maths based on focussed marking and observations of pupils' learning.
	Foundation subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record significant progress against national curriculum learning descriptors/P scales.
Spring term	English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going update of assessment tracker for reading and writing based on focussed marking and observations of pupils' learning. • Independent writing samples. • Assessments of phonic phase for each child (EYFS/KS1). • Set new learning targets.
	Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going update of tracking grids for maths based on focussed marking and observations of pupils' learning. • Set new targets.
	Foundation subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record significant progress against national curriculum learning descriptors/P scales.
Summer term	English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going update of tracking grids for reading and writing, based on focussed marking and observations of pupils' learning. • Independent writing samples. • Assess phonic phase for each child (EYFS/KS1) and update phonic phase grid. • Year 1 statutory phonics test. • Year 2 and Year 6: SATs tests – reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar tests and teacher assessments. • Progress against national curriculum descriptors is recorded on an end of year report.

Summer term	Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-going update of tracking grids for maths based on focussed marking and observations of pupils' learning.• Year 2 and Year 6: SATs tests – written, mental arithmetic and teacher assessments.• Set new targets.• Progress against national curriculum descriptors is recorded on an end of year report, alongside scaled score information from SATs tests.
	Foundation subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record significant progress against national curriculum learning descriptors/P scales.

Appendix D – School assessment schedule

Autumn one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On entry data for EYFSP in nursery and reception (non-statutory). • Class profiles updated and end of year targets set. • Parents' consultation meetings. • Phase group assessment moderation meetings. • Class assessment folder updated (on-going). • 1:1 teacher-pupil mentoring (monthly). • SEND intervention trackers reviewed. • Pupil progress meeting.
Autumn two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class profiles updated. • 1:1 teacher-pupil mentoring (monthly). • Data 'snap-shots' (class, phase, subject level). • Individual and class intervention trackers produced. • Phase group assessment moderation meetings. • Class assessment folder updated (on-going). • Academic board meeting.
Spring one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents' consultation meetings. • 1:1 teacher-pupil mentoring (monthly). • Pupil progress meeting. • Phase group assessment moderation meetings. • Class profiles updated. • Class assessment folder updated (on-going).
Spring two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class profiles updated. • Data snap-shots (class, phase, subject level). • 1:1 teacher-pupil mentoring (monthly). • SEND intervention trackers reviewed. • Individual and class intervention trackers produced. • Phase group assessment moderation meetings. • Class assessment folder updated (on-going). • Academic board meeting.
Summer one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase group and cross phase assessment moderation meetings. • End of year reports produced. • Prepare class hand-over folders. • Year 6 SATs. • Year 2 SATs. • LA SATs moderation meetings for Reception, Year 2 and Year 6. • Class assessment folder updated (on-going).

Summer two

- Year 1 phonics test.
- Data 'snap-shots' (at class, phase and subject level).
- Class profiles updated.
- Pupil progress meeting.
- Report EYFSP to LA (non-statutory after September 2016).
- Report Year 1 phonics assessment results to LA.
- Report Years 2 and 6 SATs results to LA.
- Report all results of statutory assessments to parents/carers.
- Annual reports sent to parents/carers.
- End of year parent transition meetings.
- Class assessment folder updated in preparation for class handover meeting (on-going).
- Class handover meetings (current teacher meets receiving teacher to share information).

Appendix E – The assessment cycle

