

IN A NUTSHELL

- ⇒ National Curriculum levels (e.g. 2A, 3B, 4C) have gone.
- ⇒ The new assessment system at Portway assesses pupils in relation Ages and Stages.
- ⇒ The bar has been raised—age expectations are challenging
- ⇒ Children cannot be assessed higher than the year group they are in.
- ⇒ At the start of a new school year most children will not be working at a Secure level for that year—throughout the course of the year they will progress towards a Secure or Mastery band.
- ⇒ Children will be expected to make a full year's progress each year.
- ⇒ By the end of each academic year we expect most children to be working at the 'Secure' stage for the year group they are in. If children are working below this stage teachers, children and parents will have to work together to close the gap.

AGE— RELATED BANDS (AGES AND STAGES)

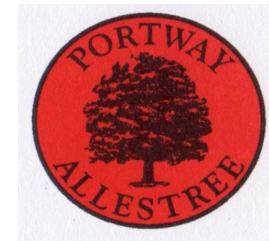
When pupils are assessed it will show that the children are working at a point on this scale:

AGE and STAGE

Year 3 Emerging (3E)
Year 3 Emerging+ (3E+)
Year 3 Developing (3D)
Year 3 Developing+ (3D+)
Year 3 Secure (3S)
Year 3 Secure+ (3S+)
Year 3 Mastery (3M)
Year 3 Mastery+ (3M+)
Year 4 Emerging (4E)
Year 4 Emerging+ (4E+)
Year 4 Developing (4D)
Year 4 Developing+ (4D+)
Year 4 Secure (4S)
Year 4 Secure+ (4S+)
Year 4 Mastery (4M)
Year 4 Mastery+ (4M+)
Year 5 Emerging (5E)
Year 5 Emerging+ (5E+)
Year 5 Developing (5D)
Year 5 Developing+ (5D+)
Year 5 Secure (5S)
Year 5 Secure+ (5S+)
Year 5 Mastery (5M)
Year 5 Mastery+ (5M+)
Year 6 Emerging (6E)
Year 6 Emerging+ (6E+)
Year 6 Developing (6D)
Year 6 Developing+ (6D+)
Year 6 Secure (6S)
Year 6 Secure+ (6S+)
Year 6 Mastery (6M)
Year 6 Mastery+ (6M+)

Portway Junior School

A GUIDE TO THE NEW ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES FOR 2015-2016



NATIONAL CURRICULUM LEVELS HAVE GONE!

You may already be aware that the National Curriculum levels (which have been in place in schools for many years) have been removed by the government in the last academic year. The Year 2s, who came to us in September, are the last cohort of children who will come into junior school with levels for Reading, Writing and Maths. The Year 6s, who left us in July this year, are the last cohort of pupils who will go to secondary school with National Curriculum levels for Reading, Writing, Maths and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling).

How Year 2 and Year 6 will be Assessed from 2016

From now on all children coming into junior school will sit their SATS in Year 2 but the results of the tests will show if they are working at an age appropriate level. Similarly, Year 6 pupils will sit their SATS tests in May as usual but their results will show if they are working at an age appropriate level. The Department for Education have not released exactly how the results of the tests will look at the end of junior school. It looks likely that a scaled score will show if a pupil is working at an age appropriate level. So at the end of junior school SATS scores will reflect how a pupil has performed in relation to a nationally age expected level. The SATS will also show whether a child is working above or below that level, too.

ASSESSMENT IN SCHOOLS

The DFE introduced a new curriculum for primary schools in 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>

Schools now have to assess pupils' performance against the statutory requirements within this new curriculum. The DFE did not provide a model of assessment for schools to use—they left it for individual schools to choose a method that was best for them. Most schools' assessments show how a pupil is working in relation to end of the year expectations set out in the 2014 curriculum. Most schools, like us at Portway Juniors, will say whether a child is working below, at or above what is expected for a child of their age.

How We Will Assess at Portway

Teachers are continually assessing pupils. Every time they mark a piece of work they will be considering how well a child has done in relation to the objective of the lesson. Teachers will also administer half-termly tests in Reading, Maths and GPS. The half term tests will be used by teachers to identify gaps in learning for the children they teach; they will use assessment information to plan future teaching and learning.

At the end of every full term teachers will use the results of half-termly tests, and their knowledge of the children they teach, to make a teacher assessment of where a child is working in relation to age expected bands. A list of all the bands is on the back of this leaflet.

SOME IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES

The new Ages and Stages assessment system is completely different to the old levels system:

The New Curriculum is Harder

The new curriculum content is harder than the old curriculum. The expectations for what a child should be able to do at the end of each year has been raised. For example, many of the things that were taught in Year 4 are now taught in Year 3. The bar has been raised and this presents a challenge for children and teachers.

Children Will Not Be Assessed As Working Higher Than The Year They Are In

When teachers assess pupils the highest band they could assess a pupil working at is Mastery+ (M+) for the year the child is in. One of the weaknesses of the old levels system was that teachers were continually striving to move children up to the next level and that gaps could appear in children's learning due to the pace of teaching being too fast. To address this teachers and children will concentrate specifically on curriculum content for the year children are in. Children will revisit, practice and apply their learning in that year. In this way they will learn thoroughly the curriculum content appropriate for their age and really 'master' the subjects.

Progress

Children will be expected to make a full year's progress each year (e.g. from Year 3 Secure to Year 4 Secure). If they are behind age related expectations we will work together to enable them to catch up. Understanding what children need to work on to close the gap is of paramount importance to teachers, children and parents.