

Thorndown Primary School's Assessment Tracking System

Guide for Parents

As you aware, when the Government introduced a new curriculum in September 2014, they also changed the tracking assessment system. We developed our own system to respond to the new requirements last year.

As the last academic year progressed, we continued to develop and refine our assessment and tracking system. We listened to our parents, pupils and staff, accessed new research and visited and collaborated with other schools to share good practice. As a result, we have redesigned our assessment practice to make it smarter and more responsive. I have listed our updated assessment system below.

Firstly in the classrooms, children are assessed continuously as an integral part of effective teaching. This ongoing formative assessment is used to identify strengths and gaps in pupil's knowledge and understanding, which staff use to inform planning to help children move on with their learning. This is informally recorded on an ongoing basis, both by the teacher and the children, who will comment on their work in their books or verbally in person. Further information about how we assess pupils' learning can be found in our Assessment Policy, which is accessible on our website under the 'Policy' tab.

Every half term, all Team Leaders and their assigned class teachers meet to discuss the progress of each child and decide whether any interventions are required. If your child is included in any of these interventions, we will be informing you, as support from home is greatly valued and can make a real difference to your child's learning.

Every term, we make summative judgements of the pupils' attainment and record formally how each pupil is progressing on our tracking system. There have been one or two changes here. For each area of learning, these judgments are made:

Below (B)	These children are working on age learning expectations which are below their chronological age. These children will have a personalised learning plan (PLP), written with you by the class teacher or SENCO. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your child's class teacher or SENCO.
Working towards (WT)	These children are working within their age-appropriate programme of study, but are not quite on track. With focused intervention and in-class support, we aim for these pupils to be on track by the end of the year.
On track (OT)	Children who have achieved a breadth of learning across the objectives for that year group are judged to be on track.
Greater depth (GD)	A child who has achieved the expectations for his/her age group's learning and has applied what he/she has learned in new and unfamiliar situations is judged to be working at greater depth.

We always like to keep you informed of your child's learning during Parents' Evenings and will discuss how we can work in partnership to address areas for development. In the Autumn Term, we will explain to you what we are expecting your child to achieve by the end of the year and will share information about their current assessments. In the Spring Term, we will share with you how your child's learning is progressing, their strengths and any learning needs. The format for this was discussed at Parent Forum last year.

We input assessment data onto our school tracking system termly. We record judgements for reading, writing, GPS (grammar, spelling and punctuation) maths and science. As teachers, we are working with your children every day, so we have a really good knowledge of where each child is in their learning.

At Thorndown, we want our pupils to be high attaining, lifelong learners. We encourage 'breadth', 'challenge', and 'application' in learning. This means that we do not regard learning as being linear, like climbing a ladder; nor is it a race to the top. Learning is more like picking our way round a complicated climbing frame.

Tracking each pupil is just one of the ways we ensure your child reaches their full potential throughout the year. If you have any concerns about your child's progress at any point during the year, please contact your child's class teacher, in the first instance, or Team Leader.