



# Assessment without levels

**A guide for parents – How we will continue to monitor you  
child's progress at St Monica's.**

**January 2017**

# Assessment without levels



The aim of this presentation is to provide information on the new assessment model for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

It is hoped that parents will find it useful in terms of reporting progress at St Monica's.

# The assessment landscape is changing.

The DFE stated that:

*“As part of our reforms to the National Curriculum, the current system of ‘levels’ used to report children’s attainment and progress will be removed. It will not be replaced. We believe this system is complicated and difficult to understand, especially for parents. It also encourages teachers to focus on a pupil’s current level, rather than consider more broadly what the pupil can actually do.”*

(Department for Education Website)

# Why have the National Curriculum levels been removed?

The Department for Education announced that National Curriculum Levels (used to summarise the attainment of students at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 for the last 20 years) would be removed and not be replaced by any new national system.

Schools have therefore had to develop their own assessment systems which best suit the needs of their pupils.

# How will this affect my child at St Monica's?

A new assessment model for KS3 has been put in place from September 2016 when our first cohort of Y7 pupils arrive without National Curriculum Levels.

Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 will also follow this new assessment model.

# What is the new assessment model?

Our new assessment system will follow the '*Lancashire LEA Assessment Without Levels Programme*' This programme has been developed by Lancashire Advisors and piloted in several schools across Lancashire.

Adopting this programme will enable our school to become part of a network of schools that will share good practice and facilitate moderation opportunities to ensure that assessment in our school is robust and accurate.

## The principles behind the new assessment programme are that it is:

- formative and diagnostic, giving pupils detailed information on what they need to do to improve
- can be summarised in a form which allows student progress to be tracked and monitored effectively throughout both key stages 3 and 4
- simple and efficient to administer
- easy for parents and pupils to understand.

# The new banding system and previous levels

The new BAND	Approximate old KS3 Level Equivalence	GCSE Grade Equivalence/Expected Progress	
		New GCSE	Old GCSE
Band D	N/A	7,8,9	A, A*
Band C	7,8	5, 6	C+, B
Band B	5,6	3, 4	C/C- to E+
Band A	3,4	1,2	E to G+



# The new banding system

The children have been placed in one of four attainment bands in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9.

( Band A, B, C or D.)

We have used prior assessment data, standardised scores and baseline assessment to do so.

From that point onwards, pupils' skills will be assessed once a term using the new banding system.

The bands are aligned to the new GCSE grades allowing us to monitor progress and to manage intervention.

# What do the current bands mean to my child?

As each band is now much broader than the previous NC levels and in order to show your child's progress, we have divided them into four sub-bands:

Emerging / Developing / Securing / Mastering.

Band A	What it will look like in my child's exercise book?
Mastering	AM
Securing	AS
Developing	AD
Emerging	AE

# How we will monitor your child's progress

- The new assessment model allows us to track your child's progress from their starting point on the flight-path.
- We can also use the flight-path on the next slide to monitor their progress against pupils of a similar ability in other schools.

KS2:KS3	BAND	7	8	9	10	11	'OLD'	'NEW'
8	D						A*	9
							A	8
								7
7	C						B	6
							C+	5
6	B						C	4
							C-	3
5	A						D-E	3
								2
4	A						F	2
							G+	1

# Understanding my child's progress report

Each term you will be issued with a progress report which will detail the progress that your child is making in school.

It is worth noting that as the new bands are very broad, it may well be that some pupils may work throughout the same band for a number of years. They are still making progress though!

For example, a pupil may reach the bottom of band C ( CE) at the end of Year 7 and remain working through band C until the start of Year 11.

Year 8 target would be CD, Year 9 target would be CS, Year 10 target would be CM.

Any questions?

Please contact:

[a.hainsworth@stmonicas.co.uk](mailto:a.hainsworth@stmonicas.co.uk)

[s.leysens@stmonicas.co.uk](mailto:s.leysens@stmonicas.co.uk)

