

MARISH ACADEMY TRUST



Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy 2020-2021

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide clear guidelines on our approach to formative and summative assessment
- Establish a consistent and coherent approach to recording summative assessment outcomes and reporting to parents
- Clearly set out how and when assessment practice will be monitored and evaluated

2. Legislation and guidance

Since the removal of National Curriculum levels in 2014, schools have been free to develop their own approaches to assessment.

This policy refers to the recommendations in the [Final Report of the Commission on Assessment without Levels](#).

It also refers to statutory reporting requirements set out in [the Education \(Pupil Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2005: schedule 1](#).

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and Articles of Association as an Academy Trust.

3. Principles of assessment

At Marish Academy Trust our assessment practice is designed to:

- Enable all children to show what they know, understand and how to move forward
- Assist children in their development as reflective life-long learners
- Reflect the 4D curriculum so that pupils are able to experience a wide breadth of study and have, by the end of each key stage, long term memory of an ambitious body of procedural and semantic knowledge which is interconnected and creates meaning.
- Recognise the whole range of children's achievements, within the National Curriculum 2014 and beyond, through the use of a variety of assessment techniques
- Relate to shared learning objectives and targets, but also take account of unexpected as well as intended outcomes
- Enable teachers to plan more effectively for individual and next steps in learning
- Support parental engagement in their child's education.
- Sustain trust wide evaluation of impact of teaching and learning and so promote continuous school improvement, especially related to pupil outcomes, for individuals, groups and cohorts.
- Provide evidence of the moderation of work, learning walks, data analysis and the triangulation of all three sources of information, to form judgement about overall quality of teaching and learning and the effectiveness of our schools.

4. Assessment approaches

At Marish Academy Trust we see assessment as an integral part of teaching and learning, and it is inextricably linked to our curriculum.

We use three broad overarching forms of assessment: day-to-day in-school formative assessment, in-school summative assessment and nationally standardised summative assessment.

4.1 In-school formative assessment

Effective in-school formative assessment enables:

- **Teachers** to identify how pupils are performing on a continuing basis and to use this information to provide appropriate support or extension, evaluate teaching and plan future lessons
- **Pupils** to measure their knowledge and understanding against learning objectives, and identify areas in which they need to improve
- **Parents** to gain a broad picture of where their child's strengths and weaknesses lie, and what they need to do to improve

At Marish Academy Trust, teachers and support staff are continuously assessing, planning, reviewing and assessing again, through each lesson, week, unit of work and school year. We do this in a variety of ways: questioning, marking, discussing work and providing feedback orally; testing and providing opportunities for children to self and peer assess.

4.2 In-school summative assessment

Effective in-school summative assessment enables:

- **School leaders** to monitor the performance of pupil cohorts, identify where interventions may be required, and work with teachers to ensure pupils are supported to achieve sufficient progress and attainment
- **Teachers** to evaluate learning at the end of a unit or period and the impact of their own teaching
- **Pupils** to understand how well they have learned and understood a topic or course of work taught over a period of time. It should be used to provide feedback on how they can improve
- **Parents** to stay informed about the achievement, progress and wider outcomes of their child across a period

At Marish Academy Trust we assess all children in the core areas twice a year. We formally assess three times in year groups 2 and 6 due to statutory tests. We complete a mixture of tests, observations and work scrutiny and form a best fit teacher assessment which is based on all the evidence available for each child. This is entered into our assessment tracking programme, Target Tracker, on line. The IMPACT team uses the assessment data, work scrutiny and learning walks, pupil voice and discussions with teachers to analyse and evaluate the progress of individuals, groups and cohorts, from individual starting points. They provide feedback to staff and review regularly for impact (see appendix 1).

We also assess in Curriculum subjects and return these assessments to parents, via the annual school report sent out in July each year, along with extensive comments on each child's attitude to learning and social and emotional development. As part of the 4D curriculum, each foundation subject has thresholds concepts, within this a progression model based on three milestones has been created. Each milestone includes the procedural and semantic knowledge students need to understand the threshold concepts. These milestones assess whether a pupil's understanding is at a basic, advancing or embedded level. The expectation is that after one year of study, children who achieve the basic level of understanding will have reached age related expectations and after a second year, children

will be at either an advanced or embedded level of understanding. (Refer to Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact statement and policy for further details)

Reception Baseline Assessment is due to commence in September 2021. It is a short assessment, taken in the first six weeks of a child starting Reception. In the final term in which a child reaches age five, the Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile is completed for each child. Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment process for children with SEND. The Profile will provide year 1 teachers and parents with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding, abilities and their attainment against the expected levels. Assessment will help inform dialogue between reception and year 1 teachers about the stages of development, learning needs and assist with planning activities in year 1.

In line with the SEND Code of Practice we assess children with special educational needs slightly differently as their starting points and progress may differ from those of the average child. It is also important to liaise with parents even more regularly in these cases. Some of these children, especially those in our Resource Base, are not working within the National Curriculum or subject specific curricula. For these children, we set SMART targets based on their EHCP or IEP which are also informed by other professionals. This may not always be the case for all SEND pupils; sometimes adjustments and amendments may be made in order to assess children's levels.

We standardise, moderate and validate the assessments we use by making reference to national tests and guidance, as well as taking part in trust wide, cross school and Local Authority moderation.

4.3 Nationally standardised summative assessment

Nationally standardised summative assessment enables:

- **School leaders** to monitor the performance of pupil cohorts, identify where interventions may be required, and work with teachers to ensure pupils are supported to achieve sufficient progress and attainment
- **Teachers** to understand national expectations and assess their own performance in the broader national context
- **Pupils and parents** to understand how pupils are performing in comparison to pupils nationally

Nationally standardised summative assessments include:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile at the end of reception
- Phonics screening check in year 1
- National Curriculum tests and teacher assessments at the end of Key Stage 1 (year 2) and Key Stage 2 (year 6)
- From 2021 reception baseline assessment to replace SATs in year 2
- From 2022 Multiplication Tables Check in year 4

5. Collecting and using data

As mentioned above we collect and store our data on children's progress and attainment within Target Tracker. This software package stores the data securely and analyses it for us at the touch of a

button. We use it to track children in class, across key stages and the whole primary school phase. Our analysis of data informs our future school improvement priorities.

6. Reporting to parents

At Marish Academy Trust we report to parents in the following ways: annual reports, parents' evenings. End of year reports are sent home via email and during COVID parent evenings were conducted online. Our annual reports to parents include:

- Brief details of achievements in all subjects and activities forming part of the school curriculum, highlighting strengths and areas for development
- Comments on general progress
- Arrangements for discussing the report with the pupil's teacher
- The pupil's attendance record, including:
 - The total number of possible attendances for that pupil, and
 - The total number of unauthorised absences for that pupil, expressed as a percentage of the possible attendances
- The results of any public examinations taken, by subject and grade (Note at the end of academic years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 no national testing took place due to COVID. No results were sent home.)

7. Inclusion

The principles of this assessment policy apply to all pupils, including those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Assessment will be used diagnostically to contribute to the early and accurate identification of pupils' special educational needs and any requirements for support and intervention.

We will use meaningful ways of measuring all aspects of progress, including communication, social skills, physical development, resilience and independence. We will have the same high expectations of all pupils. However, this should account for the amount of effort the pupil puts in as well as the outcomes achieved.

For pupils working below the national expected level of attainment, our assessment arrangements will consider progress relative to pupil starting points, and take this into account alongside the nature of pupils' learning difficulties.

8. Training

Teachers will be kept up to date with developments in assessment practice, and will be regularly provided with opportunities to develop and improve their practice on a regular basis. These include in house opportunities for assessment inset from our own senior leaders, who include several experienced LA moderators, and external opportunities arranged by the LA or other third party providers.

All new teachers are supported by their mentor or senior leader initially to assess their class. This support continues throughout the year, with experienced peers also enabling opportunities for new teachers to collaboratively assess. Our Impact strategy is explained by senior leaders and provides a robust framework for the ongoing development of assessment practice. (Please see appendix 1). Further opportunities are provided for developing leaders via our bespoke Fast Track and Empower to Deliver Programmes.

9. Roles and responsibilities

9.1 Governors

Governors are responsible for:

- Being familiar with statutory assessment systems as well as how the school's own system of non-statutory assessment captures the attainment and progress of all pupils
- Holding school leaders to account for improving pupil and staff performance by rigorously analysing assessment data

At Marish Academy Trust governors have access to a wealth of assessment data at each Strategic Board meeting and termly in the informative Executive Headteacher's report. They are trained by our SIP and Former HMI consultants in how to interpret data and results and how to challenge constructively, to enable the Trust leadership to improve further. Governors also complete work scrutinies throughout the year.

9.2 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the policy is adhered to
- Monitoring standards in core and foundation subjects
- Analysing pupil progress and attainment, including individual pupils and specific groups
- Prioritising key actions to address underachievement
- Reporting to governors on all key aspects of pupil progress and attainment, including current standards and trends over previous years

9.3 Teachers

Teachers are responsible for following the assessment procedures outlined in this policy

10. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed biannually by the IMPACT team. At every review, the policy will be shared with all teaching support staff and the Strategic Board of the Governing Body. The teaching staff are expected to read and follow this policy. The Executive Headteacher, Head teacher and the IMPACT team are responsible for ensuring that the policy is followed.

The Impact Team regularly monitors the effectiveness of assessment practices across the school, through the implementation of the IMPACT Strategy. (Please see attached Appendix 1 for more information on this.)

11. Links with other policies

This assessment policy is linked to:

- Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement and Policy
- Early Years Foundation Stage policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Single Equality Policy

This policy and its appendices are held in hard copy in each school office and uploaded onto the Trust's website. They include documents related to assessment listed below:

Appendix 1 - The impact strategy observation and work scrutiny sheets.

Revision History

Version	Date	Author(s)	Comments
1.0	10/05/2011	HT	
	18/04/2013		
2.0	August 2015	HT	
3.0	June 2017	HT	
4.0	June 2018	Impact team	
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Approval History

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	10/05/2011	
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