



*Celebrating learning together in faith, hope and love*

## **How Children Are Assessed at Bishop Perrin CE Primary School (Sept 2023)**

### **Introduction**

This document is designed to help parents understand how children are assessed in their learning at the different stages in their time at Bishop Perrin School. Assessing a child's learning and understanding of what they have been taught is a key component in supporting and challenging them.

We believe that assessment provides the basis of informed teaching, helping pupils to overcome difficulties and ensuring that teaching builds upon what has already been learnt. It is also the means by which pupils understand what they have achieved and what they need to learn next. Responsive teaching creates a positive learning environment where children can see the steps necessary for their own success. It enables teachers to scaffold and challenge learners to ensure children's continuing progress. Summative assessment (a summary snapshot of what child knows at a given moment in time) is important for accurate information regarding a child's attainment and progress over time. It informs whole school target setting and prediction of a cohort's future attainment and therefore overall school performance.

We have a comprehensive Assessment Policy that can be accessed from the [school website](#) under: Key Information/Key Policies/Assessment Target Setting Recording and Reporting

### **How We Assess Children in Each Year Group**

#### ***Reception Class (Early Years Foundation Stage)***

From September 2021 in England, children in Reception have undertaken the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) within their first six weeks of starting school. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a new measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between Reception and the end of Year 6 before moving on to secondary school. Parents can find out more about the RBA via this link:

[Reception baseline assessment: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents)

The RBA is carried out by a member of Bishop Perrin School staff who has undertaken the appropriate training. Children will complete a series of age-appropriate activities with the aid of a tablet/laptop in a room outside of the classroom. As a result of taking the RBA, children Year 2 will no longer be required to undertake statutory end of Key Stage 1 testing, although as a school, we will continue to use our own internal assessments to ensure we can track the progress of the children.

Alongside the RBA, the Reception teacher will undertake their own internal baseline assessment of the children using the criteria laid out in the [Early Years Foundation Stage Profile](#) (EYFS Profile) and [Development Matters](#). Internal school assessment is based on observations and takes into consideration children's prior attainment from their previous settings (nursery, childminder, being at home with parents).

Children in the Foundation Stage are under continuous observation. Practitioners record observations of children's learning with reference to Development Matters, the EYFS Profile and Mary Sheridan's 'From Birth to Five Years'. Observations are ongoing and recorded in varied ways. Learning is captured through photographs, recorded on labels and on documents filed for each child in their individual learning folder or the class observation folder. The evidence gathered for each child will help teachers make judgements on the EYFS Profile which is shared with parents during parent consultations and in the end of year annual written report.

The Reception teacher will record the assessment of children's attainment once a term during autumn and spring terms as well as before the submission of statutory information to the local authority at the end of June.

### **Timing of Assessments in Years 1-6**

Children in Years 1-6 are assessed at three key points during the school year. They will undertake assessments in December, March/April and in May/June.

#### **Year 1**

In Year 1, children start to access the National Curriculum, which is what they are assessed against as they move through the school. As well as the Year 1 teacher assessing children's work against objectives in the National Curriculum, children will also undertake 1:1 and small group assessments in Reading and Maths with a trained member of staff. The results of the 1:1 assessments will feed into the overall judgement made by the Year 1 teacher at the end of the academic year.

#### **Year 1 Phonics Check**

Children in Year 1 also undertake the Phonics Screening Check, which is administered nationally during a week in early June. In order to help the school measure children's progress, they will undertake a baseline Phonics Check in December using the materials of a Phonics Check from previous years. A further in-school Phonics Check is carried out in March/April to help the school track the progress of children from the December Phonics Check and allow for early identification of children who might need additional support to help them develop their phonics knowledge.

The Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 is a statutory assessment and comprises of a list of 40 words that pupils read one-to-one with a familiar member of school staff. The list of words is a combination of both real and pseudo-words. There is no time limit, but the screening check should take between 4-9 minutes per pupil.

Results from the screening check will be reported to the Local Authority and will also be reported to parents (in their child's end-of-year written report). Parents will be informed as to whether their child has met the required standard (which is normally gaining a pass mark of 32 out of 40). The Local Authority share the results with the Department for Education (DfE).

Pupils who do not achieve the threshold score will re-take the test in Year 2, and again in Year 3, if necessary, although the results of the re-check are only reported to the DfE for Year 2 children.

For more information about the Year 1 Phonics Check, please click through on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/phonics>

#### **Year 2 Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs)**

From this September onwards, children in Year 2 will no longer be required to undertake statutory end of Key Stage 1 Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs tests). The Government will use the results of the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) that the children will have undertaken when they were in Reception to measure their academic progress across their time in primary school. Up until then, children in Year 2 will be required to undertake statutory Year 2 SATs tests in Reading and Maths.

At Bishop Perrin School, children in Year 2 will undertake in-school assessments for Reading, Maths and SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) in December and March using previously published national SATs tests from previous years. In May, they then take brand new, unseen nationally published SATs tests to inform our internal assessment. The tests are marked internally by the class teacher; the results no longer need to be reported to the Local Authority but will help the teacher to assess the levels the children are working at by the end of Year 2.

The Year 2 SATs tests are not timed and the test can be administered in small groups rather than as a whole class. For more information about the Key Stage 1 SATs, please click through on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

### **Years 3 - 5**

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 undertake published tests which are aligned to the National Curriculum and are designed to replicate the style of the real Year 6 SATs tests. The children complete tests in Reading, SPaG and Maths. The tests are marked by the class teacher and are recorded internally for our own attainment and progress measures.

In order to help with the transition from Year 2 to Year 3, the tests that Year 3 children take in December will be timed in a similar way to the SATs tests that they will have taken the previous year in Year 2, meaning that those children who need extra time will be given it. From January onwards, to prepare the children in readiness for their end-of-year assessments in June, any further internal practice tests will be timed in accordance with the instructions given by the publishers, as the end-of-year assessments in May/June will be timed according to the guidance given by the publishers. Children who meet certain criteria in regards to their reading and writing speeds are given an extra 25% amount of time for all tests.

### **Year 4 Specific**

In addition to the internal tests that the children undertake in Year 4, from the September 2021 onwards, all state-funded maintained schools and academies (including free schools) in England will be required to administer an online Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) to Year 4 pupils.

The national curriculum specifies that pupils should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including  $12 \times 12$  by the end of Year 4.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.

Schools will have a 3-week window to administer the MTC. Teachers will have the flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils, small groups or a whole class at the same time.

For more information about the MTC, please click on the link below:

[Multiplication tables check: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents)

### **Year 6 Specific**

Children in Year 6 undertake assessments using previously published SATs tests from previous years in September (the results of which are used as a baseline to measure the progress of the children over the course of the academic year), December and March. They are tested in Reading, SPaG and Maths. They then take brand new, unseen nationally published end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests in May, along with all the other Year 6 children across the country. These tests are sat in a dedicated week (normally around mid-May) under strict exam conditions. The papers are collected by the DfE and are marked externally by trained markers across the country. The school receives the marks and access to the papers around early July. The results are published nationally and are shared with a child's new secondary school. The results of the Year 6 SATs tests are reported to parents via the end of year written report. Parents do not receive the actual individual scores from the tests but are informed as to whether their child has met the nationally-determined Expected Standard (or above) for Year 6 children.

For more information about the Key Stage 2 SATs, please click through on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

### **Assessment of Writing in Years 1-6**

For writing, each child will complete two pieces of independent written work for each text type studied (approximately two per half term), each completed independently. The written work will be assessed using the Bishop Perrin School Writing Assessment Grids and teachers use their professional judgement to assess children's attainment in relation to their age.

When children start a new genre of writing, such as instruction writing, report writing or fiction, they will undertake some writing without any input from their teacher. This is called “cold” writing as it enables a teacher to assess exactly what the class already know and understand about that particular genre of writing. Teachers will then tailor their planning for writing over the following weeks to ensure they provide the children with all the skills and knowledge they need in order to write successfully in this genre. Once the children have been taught how to write confidently in this style of genre, they will then write a “hot” piece of writing, enabling their teacher to see the progress they have made between the cold and hot pieces of writing. This method of teaching has proved very successful in supporting children with their writing and enabling them to show progress.

Samples of written work across the school are moderated (scrutinised) by teaching staff to ensure accurate assessment judgements are made. Teachers in Year 6 are able to meet up with other Year 6 teachers locally to moderate judgements in their writing to make sure they are accurate. Every few years schools will receive a visit from external writing moderators appointed by the Local Authority. This is to ensure that national standards are being adhered to.

### **Summary of Statutory Assessment Timings**

Year Group	Statutory Assessment	Timing
Reception	Reception Baseline Assessment	Within the first six weeks of starting school
Year 1	Phonics Check	Beginning of June (normally the first week after the May half-term holiday)
Year 2	Optional SATs	During May/June
Year 4	Multiplication Tables Check	During June (normally the first 3 weeks after the May half-term holiday)
Year 6	Key Stage 2 SATs	Within either the 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> weeks of May

### **Reporting to Parents**

At the start of the new school year, teachers meet with the Headteacher to set end of year targets for all children in reading, writing and maths, and for children in Years 1-6, phonics and SPaG targets. The targets are based on children’s results from the previous academic year with an expectation that all children will make their expected progress, depending on their different starting points based on their ability. The class targets are shared with the school Governors who monitor assessment standards across the academic year.

Individual pupil targets are shared with parents at the Autumn Term Parent Interviews, which is held before the October half-term break. Parents will be informed as to whether their child is currently on track to meet their end-of-year age related expectations in reading, writing and maths.

Discussion on a child’s targets is then followed up at our Spring Term Parent Interviews when teachers are able to share how each child is progressing against their end-of-year targets. Using the assessment data generated from the December tests, teachers can inform parents if their child is on track or not to meet their end of year target.

Teachers will not share actual test scores during the Parent Interviews. If there is a concern that a child will not meet their end of year target/s, then teachers will explain to parents what measures the school will put in place to support their child and equally, what parents can do to help support their child at home.

Children in Years 5 and 6 are invited to accompany their parents at the Spring Term Parent Interviews so they too can be made aware of how they are progressing and what areas of the curriculum they need to focus on.

After the end-of-year assessments are taken in May/June, parents are informed of how their child has performed over the course of the year via the end-of-year written report which comes out in July. Within the report, there is written text with a focus on how a child has performed in English, Maths and RE. Targets for improvement for the following year in English and Maths will be given, based on areas for development that have been identified from the current academic year’s work. There will also be a general comment about how a child has conducted themselves socially and their attitude and approach to school and their learning.

### **Parent Consultations**

Schools are legally required to offer parents one opportunity per academic year to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their academic achievement and progress.

At Bishop Perrin School, we offer parents two opportunities each academic year to meet with their child's teacher to discuss how they are performing. Parents are offered a 10 minute appointment to meet with their child's teacher in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Parents are welcome to make additional appointments to discuss their child's progress outside of the two formal Parent Interview opportunities during the course of an academic year. This might be in the form of a telephone call or a face-to-face meeting.

During the Autumn and Spring Terms, parents of children who are on the school's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Register are offered extended (20 minutes) Parent Interviews with their child's class teacher to discuss the progress their child is making against the targets set in their individual Learning Support Plan (LSP) and agree on further targets for the next term. This is followed up in the Summer Term with the opportunity for parents to have a ten minute telephone call with their child's class teacher to discuss their LSP.

### **Next Steps**

If you require any further information about how the school assesses how your child is performing, then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Head/Deputy/Assistant Head)