



Fierté Multi Academy Trust

2017-2018

Policy for Assessment

At the heart of our Trust are both the UNICEF Rights Respecting values and articles and Learning Behaviours. Through these, we aim to put **children's rights** at the heart of our schools. We work together to embed children's rights in our ethos and culture; to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. We aspire to give children a sense of pride and achievement in all that they undertake.

(See also Marking and Feedback; Target-Setting)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At Glascote Academy we believe that effective assessment provides information to improve teaching and learning. To do this in our school, we undertake two different but complementary types of assessment: assessment for learning and assessment of learning.
- 1.2 Assessment for learning (formative assessment) involves the use of assessment in the classroom to raise pupil achievement. It is based on the idea that pupils will improve most if they understand the aim of their learning, where they are in relation to this aim, and how they can achieve this aim (i.e. to close the gap in their knowledge).
- 1.3 Assessment of learning (summative assessment) involves judging pupils' performance against national standards. Teachers may make these judgements at the end of a unit of work, of a year, or of a key stage. Test results, too, describe pupil performance, in terms of levels.
- 1.4 We give our children regular feedback on their learning so that they understand what it is that they need to do better. Research has shown that their involvement in the review process raises standards, and that it empowers pupils to take action towards improving their performance.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of assessment in our school are:
 - to enable our children to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in their work;
 - to help our children recognise the standards to aim for, and to understand what they need to do next to improve their work;
 - to allow teachers to plan work that accurately reflects the needs of each child;
 - to provide regular information for parents that enables them to support their child's learning;
 - to provide the headteacher and governors with information that allows them to make judgements about the effectiveness of the school.

3 Planning for assessment

- 3.1 We use our school's curriculum plan to guide our teaching. In this plan, we set out the aims, objectives and values of our school, and give details of what is to be taught to each year group.
- 3.2 To support our teaching, we use the New Curriculum 2014. We use the assessment guidance in these schemes to help us identify each child's level of attainment as well as external assessment such as Hodder, Puma and Pira.
- 3.3 We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives (LO). We base these upon the teacher's detailed knowledge of each child. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each child's ability. We use Success Criteria within some lessons to make clear the expected outcomes for each lesson.
- 3.4 Teachers always share the lesson's learning objective with the children as the lesson begins. They also indicate the way in which the activity is linked to the learning objective, and the criteria against which the work will be judged.
- 3.5 Teachers ask well phrased questions and analyse pupils' responses to find out what they know, understand and can do, and to reveal their misconceptions.
- 3.6 We make a note of those individual children who do not achieve at the expected level for the lesson, and we use this information when planning for the next lesson. We also keep this information as a record of the progress made by the class.

4 Target-setting

- 4.1 Every school is required by law to set targets in mathematics and English each year for those pupils who are in Year 6. We in fact set targets in mathematics and English for all our children, during each academic year using key objectives from the New Curriculum 2014. We discuss individual targets, and communicate these to parents. We review the progress of each child at the end of the academic year, and set revised targets which are in front of the pupils Maths, writing and Reading books.
- 4.2 We ask our older children to review their targets with fellow pupils, because we believe that this encourages them to work together and share evidence of progress. We encourage the children to involve their parents in this process.

5 Recording

- 5.1 We recognise various methods of assessing a child's learning. The type of assessment that we make varies from subject to subject. We find it unnecessary to keep a formal record of all these assessments; we record only the information that affects future learning.
- 5.2 On our planning sheets, we record only those pupils who fail to meet the planned learning objective, or who achieve more than was planned, so that we can take the needs of these pupils into account when planning for the next lesson. Where the majority of the class makes the planned progress, there is, of course, no need to record this, and we use our annotated lesson plans as a record of progress measured against learning objectives.
- 5.3 We take the objectives for individual lessons from the broad learning objectives within the school's curriculum plan. These in turn reflect the demands of the New National Curriculum 2014. Our teachers record the progress of each child against these broad objectives. This enables them to make a judgement about the work of each child in relation to the New National Curriculum level of attainment 2014 and KPI. (Key Performance Indicators). This allows us to monitor the progress of each child. Each teacher passes this information on to the next teacher at the end of each year.

6 Reporting to parents

- 6.1 We have a range of strategies that keep parents fully informed of their child's progress in school. We encourage parents to contact the school if they have concerns about any aspect of their child's work and have fully informed parents of our revised Curriculum with each year group's objectives as well as new assessment procedures (point systems) in school.
- 6.2 Each term, we offer parents the opportunity to meet their child's teacher. At the first meeting of the school year, we review the targets that we have identified for their child. At the second meeting of the year (which we hold at the end of the spring term), we evaluate their child's progress as measured against the targets. At the third meeting of the year, we review their child's written report and the targets identified in it for the next school year (see next paragraph).
- 6.3 During the summer term, we give all parents a written report of their child's progress and achievements during the year. In this report, we also identify target areas for the next school year. We write individual comments on all subjects of the National Curriculum, and on religious education. In this written report, we reserve a space for parental feedback.
- 6.4 In reports for pupils in Year 2 and Year 6, we also provide details of the levels achieved in the National Curriculum tests.
- 6.5 We offer parents of pupils in Year R the opportunity to discuss their child's Learning Profile with the teacher as well as progress and attainment related to the GLD we assess and new assessment guidance from September 2015.
- 6.6 At the start of a term, each of our teachers gives parents an update that identifies the main areas of study for that particular class. In this update, the teacher identifies how parents can support any elements of the work during the rest of the term.
- 6.7 Each term, every child completes a piece of written work, which is linked to the current Literacy unit of work, for his or her Assessment Folder. When the teacher has assessed the work, it is kept in the classroom, and is made available to Parents during Parent - Teacher Consultations times. This folder follows the child through school from Reception to Year 6. In addition class teachers identify APP pupils including disadvantaged that they track in more detail each of the assessment quarters. (October, January, April, July)

7 Feedback to pupils

- 7.1 We believe that feedback to pupils is very important, as it tells them how well they have done, and what they need to do next in order to improve their work. We have an agreed code for marking, as this ensures that we all mark in the same way, and the children learn to understand it. (see Feedback and Marking policy 2015-2016)
- 7.2 We give children verbal feedback on their work whenever possible and each Maths and English lesson begins with Feedback 5 minutes where pupils respond to marking and feedback- see 7.6. We usually do this when the children are working during the lesson, although we sometimes give feedback on a particular lesson at the beginning of the next one. When lesson time does not allow for verbal feedback, we write comments on the children's work during marking. We give written comments to children of all ages. We do not always aim these comments at the children; quite often we write something that is useful to both parents and teachers.
- 7.3 When we give written feedback to a child, we relate this to the learning objective for the lesson. We make clear whether the objective has been met, and we produce evidence to support our judgement. If we consider that the objective has not been met, we make it clear

why we think so. In either case, we identify what the child needs to do in order to produce (even) better work in the future as a *pink for think*.

- 7.4 Teachers give pupils feedback which confirms they are on the right track, and which encourages them to make an improvement. Teachers give pupils suggestions as guidance but they recognise that pupils gain most when they think things through for themselves.
- 7.5 Having children assess their own or each other's work can be very effective, because it enables them to clarify their ideas on progressing to the next step, but this must be carefully managed, to avoid unhelpful comparisons. Teachers always mark the work themselves afterwards.
- 7.6 We allow time at the beginning of each lesson for the children to absorb any comments written on their work, to answer any questions written on it by the teacher, and also to ask any questions of their own. There may also be improvements they can work on during this time. We start the lesson in this way in order to ensure that the time our teachers spend on marking really has an impact. We believe that learning is maximised when children enter into a dialogue about their work.

8 Inclusion and assessment for learning

- 8.1 Our school aims to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils and pupils are regularly consulted about the effectiveness of marking and feedback.
- 8.2 We achieve educational inclusion by continually reviewing what we do, by monitoring data, and through asking ourselves questions about the performance of these individuals and groups of pupils. In this way, we make judgements about how successful we are being at promoting racial and gender equality, and including pupils with disabilities or special educational needs.

9 Moderation of standards

- 9.1 All subject leaders study examples of children's work within their subject area. Subject leaders use the new national exemplification materials to make judgements about the levels of the children's work as well as KPI's. All our teachers discuss these points in relation to the x 4 assessment periods, so that they have a common understanding of the expectations in each subject. By doing this, we ensure that we make consistent judgements about standards in the school.
- 9.2 It is each subject leader's responsibility to ensure that the samples that they keep of children's work reflect the full range of ability within each subject. In Maths and English a WAGOLL has been collated through each assessment quarter.

10 Monitoring and review

- 10.1 The assessment coordinator is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. S/he presents the headteacher with an annual report which evaluates strengths and weaknesses and indicates areas for further improvement. S/he may have specially allocated time for carrying out the vital task of reviewing samples of the children's work and visiting classes to observe the policy being implemented in the classroom. However, this will depend on the curriculum priorities for the school.

Dyslexia: Fierté Multi Academy Trust recognises the unique contribution of every individual in the school community. It is an inclusive school in which adults and pupils of all abilities and from all cultures and backgrounds are valued. Pupils' wider achievement is encouraged

and celebrated and the good progress of all our pupils is of paramount importance as is the safeguarding and wellbeing of all pupils.

10.2 This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Date: September 2017

Review Date: September 2018

Checked by Assessment subject leader: Michelle Powell