



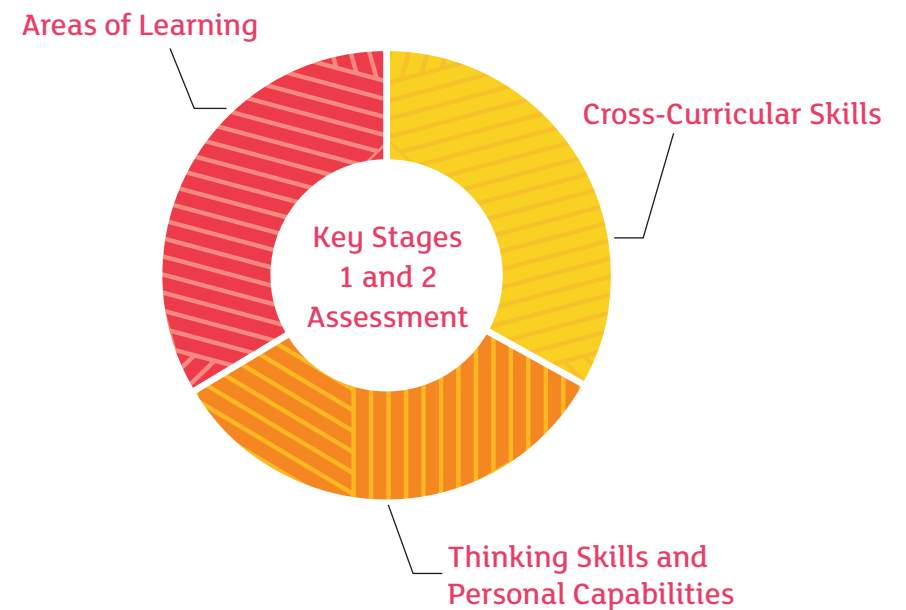
Parents' Guide to Assessment

Key Stages 1 and 2

2019/2020

Introduction

In Years 1 to 7, teachers assess your child's learning in these aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum:



Schools can decide how they will assess your child's progress in the Areas of Learning and in the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

However, all primary schools use the **Levels of Progression** to assess the **Cross-Curricular Skills** in Years 3 to 7.

What are the Cross-Curricular Skills?

The Cross-Curricular Skills are:

Communication

- Talking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Your child's ability to use language skills effectively (in English and/or Irish) in all areas of the curriculum and in everyday situations

Using Mathematics

Your child's ability to use and apply their knowledge and understanding of mathematics throughout the curriculum and in everyday situations

Using ICT

(Information and Communications Technology)

Your child's ability to handle and communicate information, solve problems and ask questions through using ICT in different contexts across the curriculum

Why are the Cross-Curricular Skills important?

The Cross-Curricular Skills will help your child to become an independent and lifelong learner. They are essential for:

- everyday life;
- work; and
- progress into post-primary education.

What are the Levels of Progression?

The Levels of Progression are a framework of assessment criteria that teachers use to assess your child's progress in the Cross-Curricular Skills.

The Levels of Progression:

are a series of statements that describe what pupils can do;

range from Level 1 to Level 5 in primary schools (Level 5 is the highest); and

describe the knowledge, understanding and skills your child needs to show to achieve each level.

You can find the Levels of Progression on the Northern Ireland Curriculum website at www.ccea.org.uk

How will teachers assess the level your child is working at?

Teachers will use the Levels of Progression to make a judgement about the level your child has achieved at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 (in Years 4 and 7) in:

Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

Teachers will base their judgement on:

their knowledge of your child and ongoing assessment information; and

your child's overall performance in a number of planned assessment activities or tasks.

What level is your child expected to achieve?

The 'expected level' is the level that most children should achieve by the end of the Key Stage:

At the end of Key Stage 1, the expected level is **Level 2**.

At the end of Key Stage 2, the expected level is **Level 4**.

Most children should progress at least one level between the end of Key Stage 1 and the end of Key Stage 2.

How do we ensure that standards are applied consistently?

A **moderation process** ensures that standards are applied consistently across all schools, so you can have confidence in teachers' judgements.

This process involves:

teachers working together to agree and set standards within the school; and

an external check of samples of pupil work that teachers have assessed.

CCEA will manage the external moderation process.

How will you find out about your child's progress?

At the end of each school year, you will receive a written report from your child's school. This will describe your child's progress in every aspect of the curriculum (including the Cross-Curricular Skills).

If your child is in Year 4 or Year 7, the school will also tell you:

the level that your child has achieved in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT; and

the expected level in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT for pupils in your child's year group, as well as other information about the assessment outcomes in the school.

Reporting your child's progress in the Cross-Curricular Skills

The table below shows you the information about the Cross-Curricular Skills you can expect to receive each year.

Years 1 and 2	Comments on your child's progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT
Years 3, 5 and 6	Comments on your child's progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT based on the Levels of Progression
Years 4 and 7	Comments on your child's progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT based on the Levels of Progression plus the level your child achieved in each of these skills

