

# PARENTS' GUIDE TO ASSESSMENT

## Key Stage 3

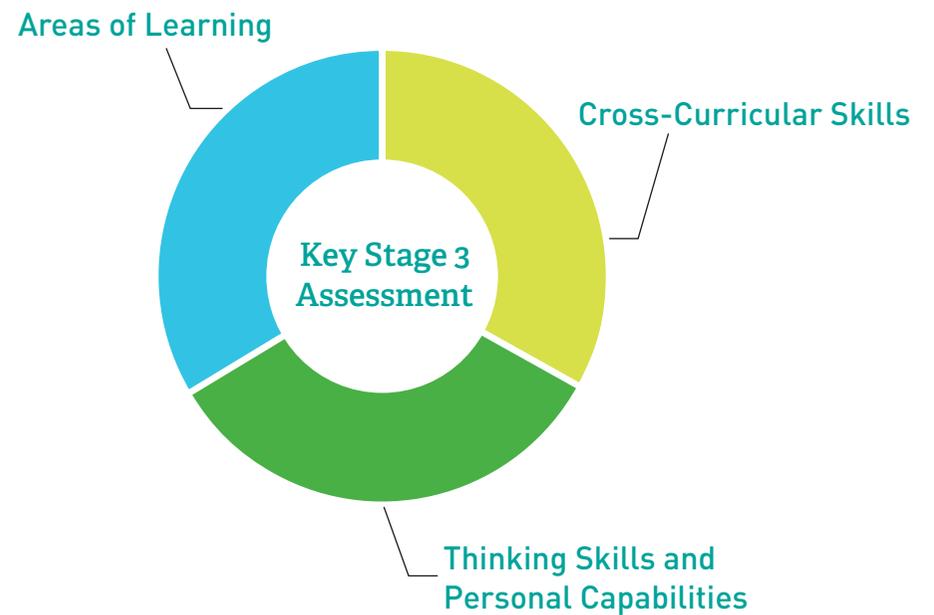


*Rewarding Learning*



## Introduction

In Years 8 to 10, teachers must assess your child's learning in these aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum:



The Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities and the Cross-Curricular Skills are taught together through Key Stage 3 subjects.

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, from **2012/13** all post-primary schools will use the **Levels of Progression** to assess the **Cross-Curricular Skills** in Years 8, 9 and 10.

## 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
- further and higher 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 7 (Level 7 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.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.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 Stage 3 in:

Communication and Using Mathematics from **2012/13**; and

Using ICT from **2013/14**.

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 2, the expected level is **Level 4**.

At the end of Key Stage 3, the expected level is **Level 5**.

Most children should progress at least one level between the end of Key Stage 2 and the end of Key Stage 3.

## 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 will begin in 2012/13. It will involve:

teachers working together to agree and apply 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 10, the school will also tell you:

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

the expected level in Communication and Using Mathematics 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.

<b>Years 8 and 9</b>	Comments on your child's progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT
<b>Year 10</b>	Comments on your child's progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT based on the Levels of Progression <b>plus</b> the level your child achieved in Communication and Using Mathematics (and Using ICT from 2013/14)

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