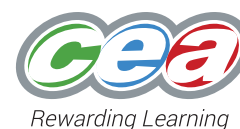


Parents' Guide to Statutory Assessment

Key Stage 3

2024/25



Introduction

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

Key Stage 3 Assessment

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Cross-Curricular Skills | Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | Areas of Learning |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|

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, all post-primary schools 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.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 Stage 3 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 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 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).

In the academic year 2024/25, your school will tell you the level your child has achieved in Communication (Reading) and Using Mathematics (Number and Algebra) at the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 10).