

Understanding Assessment Levels Policy

The Davenport School



Contents

1. Introduction.....3

2. Band Levels3

3. Aim of The Assessments.....4

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Understanding our Assessment Levels

1. Introduction

The Government direction is to remove National Curriculum levels and transfer the assessment criteria to the teaching staff. This is to 'Give reliable information to parents about how their child, and their child's school, is performing.' - Department for Education, April 2014

At The Davenport School, we have adopted a smaller finer step system to allow our pupils to see even the smallest progress as a positive, and the key features of this system are outlined below.

2. Band Levels

Pupils work within bands related to the National Curriculum expectations for their age group. Therefore, Year 3 work within band 3, Year 4 within band 4 and so on. Within each band there are nine steps to show how securely a child is meeting the requirements of that programme of study. These are:

- B-, B and B+ (beginning within the band).
- W-, W and W+ (working within).
- S-, S and S+ (secure).

Your child's Assessment will be called a step, this will contain a number followed by a letter. The number relates to the year group, and the letter relates to how secure a child is within that year group's programme of study. The meaning of each step is clarified below.

- **Step 3b-** Your child is attempting to meet the requirements but is not consistently into the Year 3 levels.
- **Step 3b** Your child is beginning to consistently meet some of the requirements of the Year 3 programme of study.
- **Step 3b+** Your child is becoming more confident in the requirements of the Year 3 programme of study.
- **Step 3w-** Your child is beginning to work confidently within the Year 3 programme of study.
- **Step 3w** Your child is working at a Year 3 level consistently.
- **Step 3w+** Your child is secure within the Year 3 framework but could work further with support.
- **Step 3s-** Your child is consistently achieving Year 3 work but has occasional independent attempts at a higher level.

- **Step 3s** Your child is secure in the majority of the requirements of the Year 3 programme of study and is beginning to apply these in a variety of different situations, not just linked to the subject.
- **Step 3s+** Your child has met nearly all the requirements of the Year 3 programme of study and demonstrates a deep understanding of these, using their knowledge in a variety of ways to show higher learning.

Pupils working significantly above the expectation for their year group can be assessed in the next year group's band. (4b, 4b+, 4w etc). Up to the year group that they are actually in, under current government guidelines no child should exceed their relevant year group.

3. Aim of The Assessments

The aim of the new assessment criteria is to ensure that all children have a solid knowledge of the curriculum before they move on to the next level and therefore, if a child is not yet able to work within their age band, they will continue to be assessed using the most appropriate previous year.

Broadly speaking, to meet age related expectations, a child should be a 3b (3 beginning) at the start of year 3 and a 4b (4 beginning) at the start of Year 4. However, as children will inevitably be at different starting points at the beginning of the year, six steps of progress over the course of a year is considered good progress.

We will be assessing the children using these levels with immediate effect, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or questions.