



Falkirk Council
Children's Services

Curriculum for Excellence Sharing Learning, Sharing Assessment



August 2105

Introduction

Assessment is how learners, teachers, parents and schools know that learners are progressing and whether the learner can demonstrate the required knowledge and skills.

The balance between on-going, informal and formal assessment varies from 3-18.

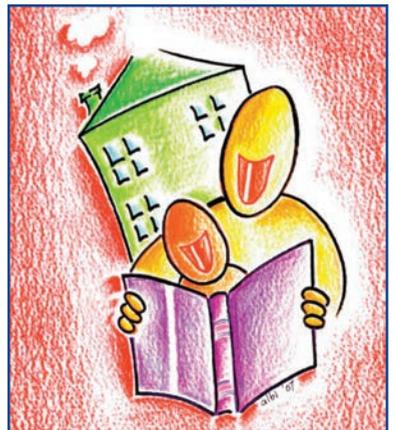
Within the classroom and other places where learning takes place, assessment information is gathered frequently and informally. Teachers use this information on a day-to-day basis to help learners plan next steps. This can take the form of peer and self-assessment by learners, teacher questioning and teacher observation of pupils working individually and together. Teachers also speak to learners or write comments to help the learner to progress.

More formal or structured assessment may include projects, investigations, case studies, design folios and question papers or tests, and may occur at set points in the school calendar.

Assessment and Reporting

In September of Primary 1 standardised testing gives a snapshot picture - a Baseline Assessment - of where individual children have reached in their literacy, numeracy and phonics development at the start of primary school. This information helps Primary 1 teachers to plan teaching and learning.

An End of P1 Assessment is completed for all children by May of Primary 1. Comparison with the Baseline Assessment shows the progress that children have achieved in literacy, numeracy and phonics.



Assessment and Reporting

As pupils progress through school, teachers use a range of assessment strategies, including standardised testing (CEM) in P3, P5, P7 and S2.

Pupils are also involved in assessing their own progress and developing their next steps. Some schools also test at P2, P4 and P6.

As a parent, you have the opportunity to find out about your child's learning through a range of means –

- Parent Information Evenings
- Informal discussion with teachers and managers when dropping off or collecting children from school or nursery
- Open evenings / afternoons / meet the teacher events
- Folios of work
- Learning Logs or Homework Diaries or Reading Records
- Notice board in the school or nursery reception area
- School, nursery or class newsletters
- Classroom visits to see children at work and displays of work
- Parent Workshops on individual topics like Active Literacy and Learning Together events
- School events, shows, nativity
- Class Blogs, School Twitter or Facebook feed

Pupil Summary Reports are also sent home to parents, so that you can comment on these. In addition, you are welcome to contact the school at any time to ask for information or for an appointment to talk to the Head Teacher or class teacher.

Standardised Testing (CEM)

This is a formal assessment that is carried out in Falkirk Council's schools to help schools to confirm or change their judgement of a child's progress. Our schools test in P1 (called PiPS tests), P3, P5 and P7 (which are called InCAS tests), and S2 (called SoSCA tests). Some schools also choose to test the intermediate years. The tests are provided by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM), which is run by Durham University.

Standardised Testing (CEM)

Being standardised, these tests tell us how learners are progressing in relation to the rest of Scotland (P1 and S2 tests) and the whole of the United Kingdom (P3, P5 and P7 tests).

These tests are just one of a number of pieces of evidence that your child's teacher uses to put together a picture of your child's progress.

What Parents Can Do -

To encourage your child to talk to you about his / her learning, you can ask –

- What did you learn today?
- Did you understand it ok?
- Can you show me how to do it?

To find out where your child is in his / her learning, you can ask the teacher –

- How well is my child learning in class?
- Is there anything he / she finds particularly difficult?
- Is he / she progressing appropriate to his / her age?
- You can ask your child's class teacher what steps you can take at home to improve your child's learning.
- You can find out from your school or class teacher what are the key times in the school year when assessment and reporting takes place.
- You can tell your child's school or class teacher if you have any concerns about your child's learning.
- You can ask your Parent Council to discuss the school's approach to assessment and sharing information with parents.

Useful Further Information

The NPFS have created a 'nutshell' information leaflet on assessment of CFE and you can find that here –

http://www.npfs.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2013/12/nutshells_assessment_E1.pdf
