

# The New National Curriculum and Assessment A Quick Guide



## What has changed?

The **DfE** announced last year that there would **no longer be National Curriculum levels** and that schools would have to set up their own way of assessing pupils. It is up to schools to implement a system that can: 'Give reliable information to parents about how their child, and their child's school is performing, help drive improvement for pupils and teachers and make sure the school is keeping up with external best practice and innovation'. (**DfE Assessment Principles: 2014**)

## What does this mean for my child?

The **new National Curriculum**, which was introduced in 2014, has set out clear expectations for what children should achieve by the end of each key stage. **English, Mathematics and Science remain as the core subjects**. The new curriculum **sets out in some detail** what must be taught in each of these subjects.

**There has been a significant rise in challenge and expectation within the new National Curriculum**. For example in mathematics there is now much greater focus on the skills of arithmetic and also reasoning. In English lessons there will be more attention paid to the study of grammar and phonics and spelling. In Year 6, evolution has been introduced in the Science curriculum.

For foundation subjects (Art, Computing, Design and Technology, MFL (ages 7+ only), Geography, History, Physical Education, RE and Music), the details in the curriculum are **significantly briefer, giving schools much more flexibility**.



Whilst we fully welcome the changes to the National Curriculum and the increased expectations, **at Torriano we remain committed to providing an inspiring, innovative school curriculum**. We are dedicated to supporting all learners to achieve their potential, developing global citizenship and pupil voice as a Rights Respecting School. We place a strong emphasis on the performing and visual arts, by offering an enriched curriculum where the children's heritage is valued and celebrated. Information about our curriculum can be found on the school website.



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## How will the new curriculum be assessed?

Children will now be assessed against the **age related expectations** set out in the new curriculum. Teaching the new curriculum is now statutory and new National Curriculum tests will be produced for the summer of 2016.

Often informally known as 'SATS', the National Curriculum Tests are compulsory for children at the end of **year 2 and year 6**. Children in these year groups will undertake tests in Reading, Mathematics, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. A phonics screening test for Year 1 children will also take place in June. The results of these tests will be formally reported to parents by the school.

Where previously these tests, along with teacher assessments, were graded with levels, schools will now report the results of statutory tests as a **scaled score**. A score of 100 will represent the expected standard for the end of the Key Stage (Year 2 or Year 6).

**Parent workshops will be held for Years 1, 2 and 6 to inform you further about the new National Curriculum tests.**

## How will I know how my child is progressing in other year groups?

Teachers will be using a range of strategies to assess how well your child/children are progressing. These are set out in the school Assessment Policy, which can be found in the policies section on the school website.

It is important that you attend parents' evenings so that teachers can share this information with you. Instead of using the language of levels, **they will describe your child's progress using the descriptions below** and give you some clear targets and strategies for you to use at home. **There is an expected standard for each year group set out in the National Curriculum.** Children with **Special Educational Needs** will also be assessed in this way; however they will have additional, personalised targets in their **My Plan**.

**For example, your child will be either:**

Working towards the expected standard

Working at the expected standard

Working at a greater depth within the expected standard

**If your child is achieving well**, rather than moving on to the following year group's work, we will encourage more in-depth and investigative work to allow a **greater mastery and understanding** of concepts and ideas. This approach is advocated by the DFE.

**We will continue to provide support and guidance throughout the year. Please discuss any queries with your class teacher. There will also be curriculum workshops throughout the year for you to attend.**