



Assessment Recording Reporting Policy

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CONTENTS

Section

1. Introduction
2. Aims
3. Leadership
4. Assessment
5. Reporting to Parents
6. External Examinations
7. Curriculum Area Responsibility
8. Assessment Techniques
9. Marking
10. Target Setting
11. Recording
12. Reporting
13. Meeting with Parents
14. External Examinations?
15. Key Stage 4
16. Monitoring and Evaluation

Introduction

This document describes the assessment and reporting processes, outcomes and actions that are used at the schools. The monitoring and reporting cycle enables the school self-evaluation (SEF) document contributing to school improvement.

Trustees have oversight of the performance of each school and Local Governing Bodies have more detailed understanding of the strengths and areas for development for individual school.

Aim

To ensure efficient monitoring and evaluation of pupil progress using a cycle that collects accurate working and prediction data in which intervention and school planning can be undertaken. The assessment and reporting cycle should support classroom teachers, Heads of House and curriculum leaders as well as the Senior Leadership Team in improving performance across the school.

Leadership

Overall leadership of assessment and reporting within Malet Lambert is the responsibility of the Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum. Curriculum leaders lead day-to-day operation of data collection and forecasting adhering to a Trust Assessment Timeline. Senior leaders review and hold Subject Leaders to account on progress data and subject actions for improvement.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of teachers' strategies for managing pupils' learning. It helps identify strengths and weaknesses, it informs pupils and their parents about progress, and it forms the basis for planning future learning. On the basis of regular assessments, pupils and teachers can set appropriate subject specific targets for each learning cycle.

The school records key assessment data centrally in order to support the work of teachers and pupils, to inform parents about their child's progress, and to provide statutory returns to local and national agencies. As policy, the school records a minimum of two data progress cycles per year, all mock exam data for KS4 subjects in addition to controlled assessment data. Further, two additional Y11 data input points are recorded.

Individual teachers and subject departments record more detailed information to support the learning process day-to-day. The school attempts to ensure consistency of centrally recorded information by encouraging moderation procedures. The school data team (comprising the Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Data Manager and Exams Officer) support all middle leaders and teachers with their data recording, analysis and subsequent intervention and actions.

Reporting to parents

Parents are informed of their child's progress formally twice through the year and have the opportunity to formally discuss their child's progress at parents' evenings.

This will happen for all year groups with the addition of a Year 9 'Options Evening'. Examination results (both internal and external) are also reported in summary form at appropriate times.

External examinations

The school participates fully in end-of-key-stage examinations set on behalf of national government. In addition, we encourage our pupils to take a full range of appropriate examinations. In collaboration with the Trust, we agree targets for the results of these external examinations. Further details on examinations can be found in the school curriculum examination policies.

Curriculum Area Responsibility

Within a subject department, responsibility for effective assessment is the responsibility of the Heads of Subject. The Heads of Subject are responsible for ensuring that appropriate standardisation and moderation is undertaken in order to allow all members of their department accurately and consistently adhere to the policy in their work with pupils and reporting their progress.

Headteacher, Senior Leaders in Education, Heads of House and Senior Leadership Team perform Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of year group performance. Heads of House and Senior Leadership Team are additionally responsible for implementing intervention strategies to support underperformance.

A number of support groups also feed into the assessment and reporting process: amongst these the SEND and learning mentors.

Monitoring should take place at all levels of the process in order to assure the quality and consistency of what we are doing. The monitoring process will also be a mechanism through which 'best practice' can be identified with a view to sharing it more widely.

Why do we assess?

Assessment of pupils' work serves a number of purposes. It enables us to identify strengths and weaknesses in the teaching and learning process; it helps us to inform pupils about their current level of attainment and helps us to set with and for them appropriate short and medium term targets for further progress; and it helps us measure the progress that pupils are making through the school curriculum, progression from our three year KS3 to level 2 qualifications and to report this to parents.

Assessment techniques

The school will use a variety of assessment techniques in order to form a judgement about a pupil's current level of attainment and to inform target setting and future work with them. Where appropriate, the assessment and target setting will involve the pupils themselves in order to give them some ownership of the process.

In deciding which assessment techniques are appropriate to a given situation, due consideration will be given to differentiation, formative and summative approaches, pupil involvement, whole-school initiatives (especially literacy and numeracy) and the integration of the assessment with the normal process of teaching and learning.

Marking

Marking assists teachers in monitoring pupil progress. It provides information on which to base the planning of future work for individuals and for whole classes. It also helps evaluate the effectiveness of teaching with respect to specific learning objectives. From the pupil's point of view, marking can support their learning by acknowledging their achievement and identifying areas for development and improvement. Please refer to the school Marking and Feedback policy for specific details.

Target setting

Target setting can help teachers as well as pupils. The setting of targets helps teachers clarify their aims for classes and individuals and it will be appropriate that most of them are shared with pupils. There needs to be a shared understanding of the process by which these aims may be achieved and targets can help pupils by acting as intermediate steps along the way. Even those who do not fully achieve the aims will be able to recognise their improvement in terms of progression through some targets. Target setting is a part of the assessment process, which can contribute significantly to continuity and progression, to evaluation and to future planning. However, it follows that a quality review of progress, followed by further target setting, must take place on a regular basis.

We are no longer issuing individual target grades for our pupils as these targets are sometimes perceived as a ceiling and can become demotivating. Instead, we are sharing with pupils their approximate percentage (%) chance of achieving each grade at GCSE based on their KS2 scaled score average. These are shown for pupils in their school report. These 'chances' are based on historical data at both national and school level. They are meant to be used as an approximate guide only as pupils have different strengths and will perform better in some subjects than others. As they are based on KS2 scaled score averages, stronger performances in some areas of the KS2 tests would indicate stronger performances in some subjects. Pupil performance can also be affected by a number of factors, such as attendance, attitude to learning and behaviour. If a pupil did not take their SATs tests at primary school and therefore we do not have any KS2 data, we estimate the distribution of grades.

Subject teachers, Heads of House and form tutors will work with pupils to help them understand their potential and how the target setting process can help them achieve it. The school's data will be used with pupils to analyse their own learning and to set personal targets.

Recording

The school is registered under the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and has a responsibility to abide by the terms and conditions that this imposes. In particular, information held by the school about pupils on any computer or computer system will be factual or reflect the informed professional judgement of staff at the school. Parents have a right to see, and if necessary challenge, this data.

The school will fulfil its legal requirement to keep a record for each pupil which “must include information on the pupil’s academic achievements, other skills and abilities and progress in the school, and this material must be updated each year.”

Central recording: external data

During a pupil’s stay with us, the school collects a number of items of external, or externally moderated data about each child. This data is held centrally on computer and is available to staff in order to inform their work with classes and individuals. This data normally includes:

- Key Stage 2 (KS2) examination/standardised test marks and
- Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) scores (verbal, non-verbal, quantitative)
- Annual standardised Reading Age assessments
- Key Stage 3 and 4 (KS3 and 4) examination results (GCSE, and all other level 2 qualification results)
- FFT data
- New Group Reading Test (NGRT)
- New Group Spelling Test (NGST)
- SISRA Analytics

Central recording: internal data

The school records centrally each child’s level of attainment in each subject. The timing of this assessment is such as to inform the Trust Monitoring and Evaluation cycle and termly reports to Directors. Key Stage 3 courses in Year 7 and 8 report in the form of: on, above or below target on the emerging, developing, secure and excelling scale. Year 9 and Key Stage 4 courses are reported in terms of a predicted grade at the end of Year 11. For most pupils and most courses this will be a GCSE 9 - 1 grade but a number of our pupils take BTEC level 2, Cambridge National Certificates and vocational and other qualifications in which cases the appropriate grading system is applied. Separate grade targeting criteria are applied to these courses depending on the grading system applied.

Two times each year, staff make a judgement about a child’s progress over the previous few months, apart from year 11 who receive only two progress reports over the academic year. The following categories are graded: effort, behaviour, homework and controlled assessment where applicable.

Use of centrally recorded data

The data held on each pupil can be collated in many ways. Its primary purpose is to support the work of teachers and pupils by informing the management of each pupil’s learning; in particular, increasing use will be made of this data for intervention and pupil progress.

Teaching staff may wish to analyse, or have analysed, the performance of their teaching groups against that of other groups in the school or against national data. Such comparisons may be useful to inform threshold applications or to inform performance management targets. The school provides analysis software through the SISRA website for this purpose and staff are required to monitor their progress data through this programme.

Departmental recording

Each department will keep its own records covering the work done in its subject. This collation will allow the departmental team to build a picture of a child's progress over a number of years, which can inform future work with the pupil. It allows members of the department to compare progress at an individual or class level and to make judgements about the effectiveness of the learning in their classrooms and, for instance, to compare the effectiveness of different teaching approaches to the subject matter. All department data is stored on the school secure servers, SISRA Analytics or within the school's google drive.

Standardisation and moderation

If information held centrally about a child is to be meaningful, it follows that it must be accurate and consistent. This implies that staff use the same criteria and comparable judgement when arriving at grades or levels. For 9-1 GCSE subjects, predictions are the best estimate based upon the knowledge and skills required to gain a grade G, C and an A grade previously. Precise grade boundaries cannot be attributed given this is a unique year and the national picture the school finds itself in. The content required for each of the grades 1,4 and 7 will be used to base initial predictions upon.

Within a department it is important that provision exists for moderation of grades. Regular opportunities must exist for staff to agree assessment criteria and moderate their use.

Reporting

All reporting is now entered directly onto 'SIMS' marksheets. Subject leaders are responsible for verifying progress data. Reports are generated and e-mailed to parents. Paper copies can be supplied to parents on request; this is led through the House teams. All reports need to be quality assured within the data team before they are distributed.

The school has a responsibility to ensure that this automation of the report process does not reduce the quality of the information that it gives to parents. The school will make every effort to make the content of these reports easily understandable to parents and pupils alike.

Meetings with parents

Staff at Malet Lambert will meet with each child's parents at parents evening online. Most parents want a full and accurate picture, even if this can be uncomfortable. We provide the opportunity for parents to ask questions in order to gain a better insight into their child's performance at school. Parental events form part of the school's annual cycle of events and are notified to parents via the school calendar, website, e-mails, social media and letter.

External examinations

The school undertakes external examinations with pupils at a time which is deemed most appropriate for their development. The school, in consultation with the Trust sets target levels for a range of examination key performance indicators each year in addition to measures reported by the DfE:

- Progress8
- Attainment8
- Maths and English Grade 9-5
- Maths and English Grade 9-4
- Ebacc entry
- Ebacc average points per slot
- Ebacc Grade 5+

Key Stage 4

The school provides all pupils with the opportunity to take examinations in the subjects that they have studied during Key Stage 4; indeed, it is our policy that all pupils should undertake such examinations other than in exceptional circumstances.

Statements of entry are sent home to parents, normally in early February, for the GCSE and Certificate of Achievement examinations. Parents are asked to signify their agreement with the entries and any queries are dealt with at this stage. Once the entries are confirmed and sent to the examination boards, parents are asked to pay for any examination that their child misses without good reason.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation will be done by the following methods:

- Senior Leadership Team, School Improvement Leaders and Middle Leaders
- Floodlight/Spotlights undertaken by Heads of Subject, SLT and Trust Team
- Headteacher Book-sees
- Departmental Book-sees
- Sampling of pupils' views through questionnaire or discussion (Pupil Voice)
- Analysing teacher specific data, in order to share good practice and support development
- Quality of Education
- Quality Assurance Documentation
- Trust School Improvement Review (T-SIR)
- School Improvement Partner Visit
- Governor Links and Visits