

## Assessment – making sure your child’s needs are being met

Assessing each child’s learning needs at Beaver Road is a challenging task.

Many of you will have your own experiences of assessment by testing.

A test e.g. SATs, GCSE (usually taken at the end of a year) is meant to indicate the precise level of your learning.

Tests tell us something about learning but they do not give us anywhere near the whole picture of attainment and achievement. Nor do they accurately indicate what the next step in learning is.

We need a much better method, which may still include some testing, that makes sure every child is getting the right teaching and learning for them, at every stage of their development.

### **Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) is a national programme for schools.**

It aims to support teachers in teaching a broad curriculum matched to children’s learning needs. The programme will help teachers hone their skills in assessing children’s progress in reading, writing and all aspects of mathematics. It involves teachers stepping back periodically to review children’s ongoing work and relating their progress to national curriculum levels.

At Beaver Road we are developing this programme through continuous staff training. The aim is to give all teachers the skills to:

- look at an overview of performance based on a wide range of evidence, both when English and mathematics are taught explicitly and when they are used in other subjects or contexts
- recognise connections between children’s performance in areas such as writing across subjects, reading for pleasure or applying mathematics in other subjects
- write a detailed profile of what a child can do
- identify areas to be developed to inform planning
- assign a national curriculum level from an informed, holistic judgement of each child’s achievement rather than by calculating marks in tests.

The programme will enable us to make professional decisions about the next stage of learning for each pupil.

In this section of our website you will find information about how teachers assess your child’s reading and mathematics progress – what each level and stage of progress means. It will help you to understand what your child can already do and the next steps your child will be taking on their learning journey.

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