

# Information for Parents

## Key Stages 1 and 2

### Statutory Assessment Arrangements

# The Curriculum and Learning

The Northern Ireland Curriculum (Primary) includes:

- Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7.

It sets out:

- Areas of Learning
- Cross-Curricular Skills
- Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

# The Curriculum and Learning



The six **Areas of Learning** are:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education.

# The Curriculum and Learning



Children engage in **active learning contexts** across all areas of the curriculum to develop:

- Cross-Curricular Skills
- Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

# The Curriculum and Learning



The three **Cross-Curricular Skills** are:

- **Communication**
  - Talking and Listening
  - Reading
  - Writing
- **Using Mathematics**
- **Using ICT.**

## The **Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities** are:

### *Thinking Skills*

- Managing Information
- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- Being Creative

### *Personal Capabilities*

- Working with Others
- Self-Management.

To **improve your child's learning**, we need to know:

- what stage they are at in their learning
- how well they are doing
- how we can help them do better.

Teachers will **assess your child's progress** in different ways, for example:

- classroom observation
- discussion and asking questions
- classwork
- homework
- class tests
- assessment activities.



Your child will be assessed **each year** in:

- the Areas of Learning
- the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities **and**
- the Cross-Curricular Skills.

## **Assessing the Cross-Curricular Skills**

In Years 3–7, schools must use the **Levels of Progression** for assessing and reporting pupils' progress.

In Year 4 and Year 7, the **numerical level** your child has achieved will be reported to you (not yet required for Using ICT).

# Assessment of the Cross-Curricular Skills



Teachers assess your child's progress **in an ongoing way** through:

- **classroom observation**
- **discussion and asking questions**
- **monitoring their work and progress.**

This helps them understand:

- the **level** at which your child is working
- how best to help your child **improve their learning.**

# End of Key Stage Assessment



**At the end** of Key Stages 1 and 2, teachers will decide the level your child has achieved in each skill, based on:

- their **knowledge** of your child
- **assessment information** they have gathered **and**
- your child's performance in planned **assessment activities/tasks**.

# Expected Levels for the Cross-Curricular Skills

## Expected Levels at the End of Each Key Stage

End of Key Stage 1 (Year 4)

Level 2

End of Key Stage 2 (Year 7)

Level 4

End of Key Stage 3 (Year 10)

Level 5

# Expected Levels for the Cross-Curricular Skills

## Expected Levels at the End of Each Key Stage

End of Key Stage 1 (Year 4)	Level 2
End of Key Stage 2 (Year 7)	Level 4
End of Key Stage 3 (Year 10)	Level 5

There is also:

‘a very clear expectation that individual pupils should progress at least one level between each Key Stage.’

*(Department of Education, May 2010)*

The **Annual Report** will give you information about your child's progress in every aspect of the curriculum.

## In Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

Annual Reports will include a **comment only** about progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

## In Years 4 and 7

The Annual Report will include a **numerical level** and a teacher's comment:

- for Communication and Using Mathematics (from **2012/13**)
- for Using ICT (from a date to be decided).