

# My child was always a high attainer. Why has this changed?

This hasn't changed, your child is still being pushed to achieve more, and they are still making great progress. However, rather than moving upwards in their learning, they are moving sideways. Under the new 'mastery' curriculum your child is now broadening their understanding of the curriculum, learning in much greater depth than in previous years.

# My child's attainment appears to be lower than it was before. Why is that?

Because the objectives expected in each year group are now much more challenging and have moved from higher year groups down the school, this year, children are having to learn objectives from lower years, as well as their own year group's objectives. For children to catch up to their own year group will take time. This is the case in all primary schools.

We expect the vast majority of our children to be working at the nationally expected level or above, by the end of the next academic year if not before.

As always your child's teacher will have the highest expectations of your child; they will provide a rich and stimulating curriculum; they will challenge and stretch, as well as support and structure the curriculum for your child. Our dedication to your child's progress will not change.

# What about SATs and grades?

This will be the last year that children receive a 'Level' grade in their SATs. The government has proposed that in future children will either pass or fail a test that shows they are at Year 2 or Year 6 level.

In other years, children will not have a level grade on their report. The report will focus on what your child is able to do, and there will be a separate comment which will let you know simply if your child is working in line with, below, or above, the national expectation for their year group.



# Changes to Assessment



How has the removal of National Curriculum levels changed how progress is reported at Trull School



A guide for parents

# Removal of Levels

## What were levels?

In the previous national curriculum, what children were expected to learn during their time in primary school was divided up into objectives.

These objectives got progressively more difficult as the children moved through the curriculum. To mark the change in difficulty the objectives were banded in levels, moving from Level 1 through to Level 4 in primary schools, although some children studied objectives at Level 5 or even 6.

## What were levels used for?

Levels were used to mark the progress of children as they moved from class to class. At the end of KS1 the 'average' child would be at Level 2. By the end of KS2 the same child would progress to Level 4. Levels were helpful as they gave teachers a good understanding of what a child had previously learned and what they needed to learn next.



## How did this help parents?

Many schools reported children's levels to parents as part of their end of year report, helping parents to see how their children were progressing.



## Why have levels been removed if they were so useful?

The new 2014 National Curriculum comes from a different educational philosophy.

## Changes cont.

The new curriculum also expected much more of children than the previous curriculum, e.g. children used to learn the 2, 5 & 10 times tables in Year 2, this now happens in Year 1.

In every year the expectations have been raised, the curriculum has become more challenging, and children are expected to learn more, and in more depth.



## How does this affect my child's report?

Due to the changes the new curriculum brings, children around the country who were working at the expected level for their age, now have large gaps in what is expected of their understanding. Over the course of this year, your child's teacher has been working to fill in these 'new' gaps, teaching objectives from lower year groups that had not previously been a part of the curriculum. This has meant that across the country, children have been playing 'catch-up' and whilst they may be working at a level that was previously good for their age, this year, this is assessed as being *below* what is now expected. Children who were exceeding expectations, may now be simply secure. *For almost all children, it will appear that their attainment is less than in previous years.*