

Kirkbie Kendal School



Assessment in Year 7, 8 and 9.

A Guide for Parents

Background

As you may be aware the Government has removed National Curriculum Levels for all students. In September 2016 students entered Year 7 with new end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) test scores in reading, writing and mathematics. Across the country secondary schools have been taking this opportunity to develop new ways to assess progress and attainment at Key Stage 3 (KS3). Our aim is to ensure that all of our students and their parents/carers know how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve.

Basic Principles

The most important aspect of any assessment is that it helps students to make progress with their learning. Grades by themselves tell students how they compare to others but don't tell them how to improve their work or deepen their understanding. Tests, marking criteria and examples of work show students the standards expected of them. Feedback on their work guides them through the steps needed to improve and reach these standards.

Progress

Every child arrives at Kirkbie Kendal School having reached a different level of attainment. We have to take into account this level of attainment when measuring progress. Progress scores awarded will take into account how well each student is doing in comparison to their starting point. All students can make exceptional progress and therefore can reach the highest levels of attainment.

Flight Paths

Every student will be given a 'Flight Path' based initially on his or her KS2 outcomes and our own internal baseline assessments. The Flight Path sets out the pathway to the likely GCSE grade destination at the end of Year 11 using the new GCSE scale from 1-9. The final GCSE grade will depend on both the **starting point** on entry to KKS and on the **progress** made during the years spent at KKS. A student who makes **Exceptional** progress from a starting point will achieve a higher GCSE grade than a student who makes **Limited** progress. The Flight Paths and the Progress Grades enable students and parents to know how a student's level of attainment fits in to the pattern of achievement in the school and nationally.

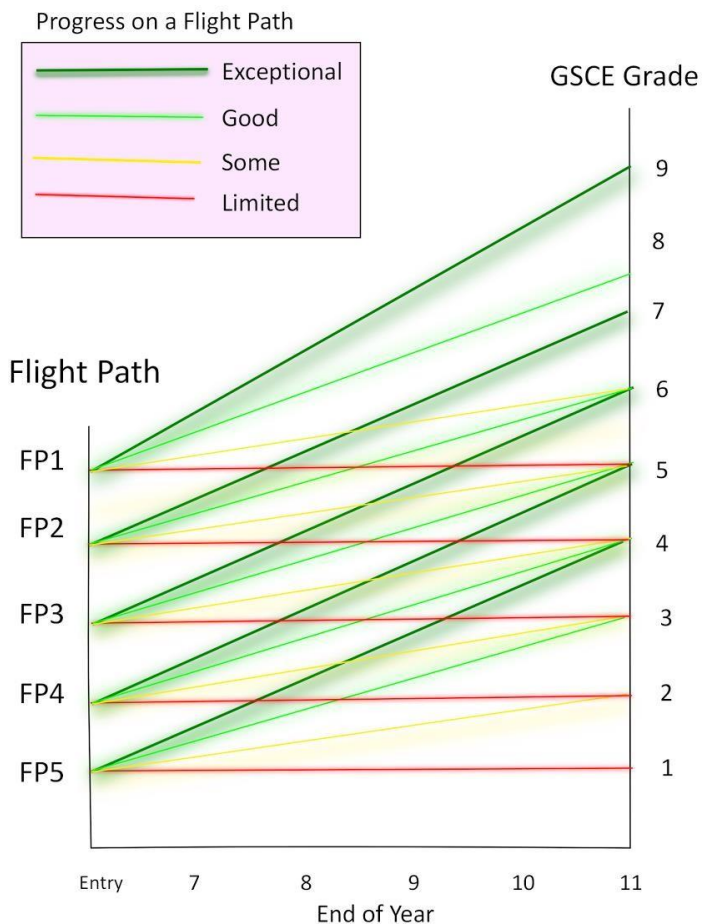
For Maths and English separate Flight Paths will be allocated based on KS2 scores. For other subjects the average of English and Maths scores will be used to begin with. Each year the Flight Path will be reviewed so that a student can move to a higher Flight Path if their progress suggests they need greater challenge. In Year 7 Flight Paths will be allocated in October.

These Flight Paths will not be used to label students but will sit in the background of our data systems to help teachers award the appropriate progress grades. There are 5 Flight Paths (FP1 – FP5) which cover our cohort effectively. The majority of our students are in FP2, FP3 and FP4, our core cohorts. FP1 and FP5 are much smaller.

Flight Paths and Progression

Flight Path	Exceeding Target Exceptional Progress E ++	Securely on Target Good Progress G +	Approaching Target Some Progress S =	Below Target Limited Progress L -
FP1	9/8	8/7	6	5
FP2	7/8	6	5	4
FP3	7/6	5	4	3
FP4	5	4	3	2
FP5	4	3	2	1

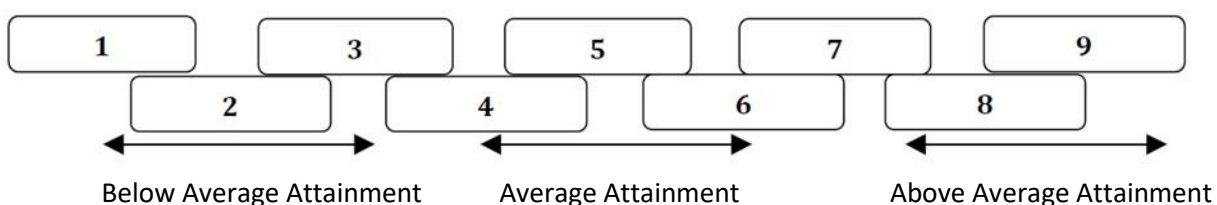
For reference to old GCSE grade outcomes: 9~A**, 8~A*, 7~A, 6~B, 5~B/C, 4~C, 3~D, 2~E/F, 1~G.



It is expected that G meaning Good Progress is the default grade for students who are completing the work routinely to a good standard. E meaning Exceptional Progress indicates that a student is pushing to the top end of the Flight Path. S meaning Some Progress means that the student is making progress but needs to increase the rate of progress to achieve the high standards targeted. The standards set are challenging; we think this is good and keeps students focussed on aiming high.

The graph to the left shows how a student may progress across each year on each Flight Path.

Although we are giving discrete number outcomes on the Flight Path scale, each number is indicative of a wide attainment range. Teachers are using different kinds of assessment to make a best fit judgement about the progress grade that is likely to lead to GCSE outcomes if the current rate of progress is continued. As we get to know the new GCSE grades and how they work in practice we will get better at making these estimates more accurately.



It is important to note that these numbers do not form a ladder. Students making Good Progress throughout Key Stage 3 will retain the same Progress Grade. Also a student may have an excellent Attitude to Learning score but an S for progress indicating that there is a specific area of difficulty that requires some intervention. Additional support is likely to be appropriate for students with an S or a L.

Each subject has its own assessment model to track the learning of the students in each topic or area of work. The assessments are subject-based because what works well to provide learning information for one subject area may not help in a different subject. Each subject will use this assessment information when allocating Progress Grades for reports.

Reporting

Parents/carers will receive regular reports during the year shown on the assessment and reporting calendar below. An Interim Grade Sheet (IGS) is a data report.

Each IGS report will include:

Flight Path This is the Flight Path allocation for each subject.

Progress Grade E, G, S, L
 Exceptional Progress – Exceeding target
 Good Progress – Securely on target
 Some Progress – Approaching target
 Limited Progress – Below target

Attitude to Learning 1 – 4

The grade descriptors for Attitude to Learning will be included in the report along with the progression table and graph shown above.

A Full Report will also include a comment from each subject teacher giving a target for improvement.

Typical Reporting Calendar (see School Calendar for precise dates)

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
September	Getting to Know You Evening with Form Tutors		
November		IGS	IGS
December	IGS		Options Evening
January		Exams	IGS Parents' Evening
February			
March	IGS Parents' Evening	Full Report	Exams
April			
May	End of Year Exams	Parents' Evening	Full Report
June			
July	Full Report		