



PARENTAL GUIDE TO
ATTAINMENT LEVELS
AT KS3

YOUR CHILD'S ATTAINMENT AT KEY STAGE THREE

How is this measured?

During Years 7 and 8 we make use of the National Curriculum levels to measure the attainment of all students across the curriculum. At Key Stages 1, 2, and 3, the National Curriculum is accompanied by a series of eight levels. These are used to measure your child's progress compared to students of the same age across the country. The National Curriculum Framework provides a set of level descriptors which teachers make use of in their assessment.

Are these the same as the levels used at the primary school?

Yes. There are eight National Curriculum levels, covering the ages 5-14 years. The lowest is Level 1, which describes the achievements of children at around the age of five. The highest is Level 8, which is attained by the most able pupils at the age of 14. There is also a description of 'exceptional performance' above Level 8, which only a very few pupils are expected to reach. There are differences in the curriculum however and some subjects measured at Key Stage 3 might not have been measured at Key Stage 2 using National Curriculum levels. It is also worth remembering that students begin new subjects at Key Stage 3.

On my child's report there is a letter next to the level. What does this mean?

Each level is quite broad so each one is divided into three sub levels, e.g. 5a, 5b and 5c. Essentially these can be defined as follows:

C the child has started to work at the level

B working well within the level

A the child has reached the top of the level and is working towards the next level

Should my child go up a level each time I get a report?

Not all students progress at the same rate, nor do they progress evenly. You may find that your child remains at the same level between two sets of reports for some subjects or they might progress only one sub level. Expected progress across one key stage is one and a half levels. Very good progress would mean that a student makes two levels of progress from the end of year 6 to the end of year 8 e.g. from 4b to 6b. If you have any concerns about your child's progress at any time please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Will my child sit tests in Key Stage 3 similar to those in Year 6?

Students in Key Stage 3 are no longer required to sit SATs. At New Rickstones however students will sit Year 9 examinations in English, Maths and Science. This allows us to offer standardised tests which we will use to report KS3 attainment to the Department for Education.

How can I compare my child's attainment with students across the country?

Students are expected to attain the following:

National Curriculum level	Year 6 Aged 11	Year 8 Aged 14
Exceptional attainment		Exceptional attainment
8		Exceptional attainment
7		Beyond expectation
6	Exceptional attainment	At expected level
5	Beyond expectation	At expected level
4	At expected level	Below expected level
3	Below expected level	
2		
1		

If I want to know more about this where can I find out more?

You are more than welcome to ask us for any more information. Alternatively you might find the following websites helpful:

www.direct.gov.uk

www.curriculum.qcda.gov.uk

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