

Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School

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Parent Consultations March 2015

A note to parents about the new Primary Curriculum and Assessment

You will probably know that the Department for Education fundamentally changed the National Curriculum for schools from September 2014. This year the requirements for pupils are being taught to all year groups; Years 1-5, with the exception of Year Two. Year Two and Year Six will be assessed on the pre-2014 National Curriculum and in 2016 all classes will be assessed on the new National Curriculum. The DfE have not yet published their assessment materials for 2016 and are currently piloting them in schools.

Our curriculum, which is published on the school website, identifies all the different aspects of learning that your child will be encountering in each school year. The curriculum does have continual review, and it is likely that there will be further change in response to the DfE assessment materials when they are published. This is the case for all schools nationally.

The DfE have stipulated that schools must develop assessment systems that allow them “to check what pupils have learned and whether they are on track to meet expectations at the end of the KS, and to report regularly to parents”.

Our school is working with the Catholic Schools Cluster and Croydon Local Authority advisers to develop and embed these systems in our teaching and learning process. It is important that we are able to demonstrate how much progress our children are making, whether they are in line with age-related expectation, and what their next steps for learning are. The transitions from levels to end of year ‘milestones’ is taking place this year and a great deal of staff training and moderation is taking place to ensure that our judgements are consistent, accurate and moderated both within and across schools. Key to this process has been our work on marking and feedback to pupils.

What your child needs to know is how well they did in any piece of work/learning activity and what they could do to make it better. This is a key focus of our school. It also responds to the comment in our last OFSTED report that stated that marking needs to ‘...identify the next steps for pupils to improve their own attainment’.

What you will want to know is how well your child is doing in relation to national expectations and how much progress they are making. While we will no longer be reporting levels to parents (as they no longer align with the new National Curriculum requirements) we will be telling you how your child is doing in relation to their age related ‘milestones’. For each year in Literacy and Numeracy there are specific statements which outline where your child should be in relation to their age. This document is published on the school website in the curriculum section. When we discuss this with you and report formally at the end of the school year we will be using the terminology ‘On track for age related expectations/ahead of age related expectations/below age related expectations’. We will also be far more specific about what this means and what your child needs to do to move to the next stage of their learning.

I hope this helps to add some clarity. We will be running a parent meeting with lots of additional information at the start of the Summer Term. This year is a learning journey for all schools in terms of ‘life without levels’ and we will ensure you are kept informed.

D Mooney