

Information for Parents-Carers (2 of 3): Assessment, Reporting and Qualifications

ASSESSMENT

How will my child be assessed in the Broad General Education (nursery to S3)?

The purpose of assessment is to make sure that pupils are making progress. It helps teachers to:

- track learning
- support learning effectively
- plan next steps for learning
- summarise and recognise learning
- give parents and carers information of child or young person's learning

Assessments include spoken and written evidence and evidence of things that pupils have made (for example, a model) or done (for example, an experiment). We encourage learners to assess themselves and each other. Children and young people also use teachers' assessments to help them learn. They can then make goals for their own learning.

When will my child be assessed?

From **Early Level to Level 4**, assessment takes place throughout learning. At transition points and at the ends of sections of learning there may be a focus on assessment. Standardised testing in Literacy and Numeracy take place in P1, P4, P7, and S2.

Will my child gain recognition for wider achievements outside school?

The Curriculum for Excellence aims to recognise and celebrate learners' wider achievements and life outside school, for example: voluntary or community work, developing skills in another language etc.

MOVING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

All assessment information is transferred from primary school to secondary school. In P7 (to prepare for secondary school) learners write about and share their achievements both in and out of school. This is called a **Profile**. Teacher and learners use this information to make the right learning choices.

REPORTING TO PARENTS AND CARERS

How will I know what progress my child is making at school?

Reporting will happen each year. The school will decide how and when this happens. It will involve both you and your child and can include: written reports, pupil presentations, open day information, sharing of work, parent consultation meetings.

Reporting will also:

- describe what your child has achieved and what they need to keep working on
- show progress in the eight curriculum areas
- show achievement within a Curriculum Level
- show other achievements
- show goals and next steps
- identify any specific support offered

Reporting will provide a clear description of your child's learning within the Broad General Education Curriculum Levels (nursery to S3). Children progress at different rates and they can be at different levels for different subjects, for example a child could be at Level 1 for Literacy and Level 3 for numeracy. The curriculum allows for this flexibility. Every year, children will move up to the next class, regardless of their levels. We report to parents and carers on their own child's progress, not in comparison to other pupils in the class.

In the Senior Phase, reporting will include progress with working towards qualifications.

Curriculum for Excellence Levels and Stages (class/year)

	Level	Stage (class/year)
Broad General Education	Early	the pre-school years and Primary 1 (P1)
	First	to the end of Primary 4 (P4)
	Second	to the end of Primary 7 (P7)
	Third and Fourth	From Secondary 1 (S1) to Secondary 3 (S3)
Senior Phase	National Qualifications	From S4 to S6, in school/college/other type of study, until the age of 18

National Qualifications

Name of qualification	Description	Level of study	SCQF points
Advanced Higher	Study at an advanced level, usually in S6. Coursework and exam. Students can progress to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher National Diploma (HND) • Undergraduate degree (university) • Technical Apprenticeship 	7	32
Higher	Usually studied in S5 and S6. Coursework and exam. Students need Highers to enter university. Different university courses require specific subjects and grades. Students can progress to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Higher courses • National Certificate (NC) or National Progression Award (NPA) • Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND) • Undergraduate degree (university) • Modern Apprenticeship 	6	24
National 5	Assessed by exam or coursework, or both. Students can progress to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher courses • National Certificate (NC) or National Progression Award (NPA) • Foundation Apprenticeship • Modern Apprenticeship 	5	24
National 4	Units (coursework) assessed by the teacher. Students can progress to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National 5 courses • National Certificate (NC) or National Progression Award (NPA) • Modern Apprenticeship or other employment 	4	24
National 3	Units (coursework) assessed by the teacher. Students can progress to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related courses at National 4 • National Certificates (NC) or National Progression Awards (NPA) • Employment 	3	18

When do learners take their first formal examinations?

Young people can take National 4 and 5 qualifications in S4, S5 and S6 or go straight to Highers (S5), if this is appropriate for them. Young people can study for qualifications over 1 or 2 years. This depends on the learners needs. Students can take Literacy and Numeracy qualifications from S3.

How many qualifications can learners take?

Qualifications build on learning in S3. Young people could study up to eight qualifications from S4. This depends on the level of qualification and if they are studied over 1 or 2 years.

How and where can young people learn during the Senior Phase?

In the Senior Phase, young people can stay on at school, go to college or university, attend work-based learning or volunteer. Working with colleges and other organisations can offer more experiences, e.g. *Skills for Work* course; *Jobs, Employment and Training* (JET) initiative.

Further Information

[Parentzone Scotland | Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

[Scottish Qualifications Authority - SQA](#)

[Scotland's national skills agency | Skills Development Scotland](#)

[Welcome to Edinburgh College | Edinburgh College](#)

[UCAS | At the heart of connecting people to higher education](#)

Other information leaflets for bilingual parents/carers:

- Education in Scotland
- Parents-Carers as Partners in their Children's Education

You can ask the school for these if you don't have them yet.