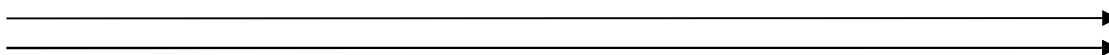


The National Curriculum Levels

A few parents have asked for an explanation of the Level system within the National Curriculum. From Year 1 on in their school life, all children are assessed against the National Curriculum Levels; children in reception follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

This is how the National Curriculum Levels build up.

P levels 1 - 8	1c	1b	1a	2c	2b	2a	3c	3b	3a	4c	4b	4a	5c	5b	5a
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A Level 2b is the level expected of the average child at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and a Level 4b is the level expected of an average child at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6).

Reported levels at Key Stage 2 SATs are not broken down into sublevels; children are given a Level 4 or 3 or 5 rather than, for example, a 4a.

This is also the case in Key Stage 1 for Science and Speaking and Listening.

The table below shows which level average children should be achieving in each year group. With the exception of Years 2 and 6 these are a **general** expectation because few children develop in a nice, regular way. There is also a difference between levels in the different key stages; for example a Level 3 in KS2 isn't quite the same as a Level 3 in KS1.

YEAR GROUP	Average Level
Year 2	2b
Year 3	2a/3c
Year 4	3b
Year 5	3a/4c
Year 6	4b

We are required to report the levels achieved in the QCA assessment tests in Years 3, 4 and 5 and you will see these in those children's reports for the first time. These are a snapshot of the children on the day of the test.

Some children need more consolidation in their early years, some develop quickly. Some experience blips along the way, and some need to consolidate their learning at various stages, often at the beginning of a new Key Stage. We have found that children need the early building blocks of learning to be solid to enable them to learn better and increasingly quickly as they near the upper end of the school.

The children are in primary school for seven years and these levels are a guide to their progress. We aim for the children to achieve the best they can but also to have a broad and balanced education that will help them to become responsible individuals who are aware of their role in society and how they can make a useful contribution to it.

Richard Bullard
Headteacher

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