



Friends' School Lisburn

Assessment Policy

Rationale

Assessment at Friends' School Lisburn supports and promotes high quality learning and teaching. The aim of assessment is to enable each pupil to achieve his or her full potential. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for improving their work through self-review and targeting areas for future focus. The Assessment Policy in Friends' School is fully integrated with the delivery of the curriculum and reflects the statutory requirements and rationale of the NI Curriculum.

Indicators of Effective Assessment

Assessment should:

- Reflect statutory requirements
- Promote and support Learning and Inform Teaching
- Be both formative and summative – occurring continuously and at the end of a period of learning
- Use appropriate and diverse strategies
- Recognise ALL pupil progress and achievement
- Give regular and constructive feedback and develop the capacity for individual self review and target setting
- Foster a shared involvement and responsibility between school and home

Methods of Assessment used

Assessment for Learning

Assessment for Learning is very much integrated into pupils' everyday learning and is used to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding. It may take the form of short quizzes; retrieval practice; questioning; independent or group tasks; class discussion; homework; project work; class or unit tests; or teacher observation of pupil participation. In keeping with the rationale of the NI Curriculum, pupils are also encouraged to be fully involved in their learning and to review their work and set targets for improvement.

Assessment of Learning

Throughout the year, in most subjects, pupils will have summative or end of topic/ end of unit tests, many of which will be standardised across the whole year group.

Additionally, at the end of the **Autumn Term** and again in the Summer Term pupils sit **School Examinations**.

Pupils in **Key Stage 3** are assessed at the end of **Year 10** and given a level to reflect performance in Communication (English), Using Mathematics (Mathematics) and Using ICT. The assessment arrangements are currently under review by the Department of Education. Throughout Key Stage 3 the school reports on the progress pupils are making in each of the five Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Pupils in Years 11 - 14 take GCSE and A-level public examinations. The **Controlled Assessment Policy** and the Year 11 and 12 Information Booklets provide detail on Controlled Assessments at GCSE.

Reporting and Communication with parents:

- Formal written reports will be provided for pupils in Years 8, 9 and 11 following the summer exams; for Years 10, 12, 13 and 14, these will follow on from the winter exams
- Shorter reports containing marks and grades will be issued for Years 8, 9 and 11 following the winter assessments and for Year 10 following the summer assessment

- Parents' Meetings – one per year for each year group, with pupils in attendance
- Curriculum Booklets for each year group in Key Stage 3; GCSE Assessment Information Booklets at Key Stage 4; the Sixth Form Information Booklet; Coursework Grids and bi-annual revision guides ensure parents and pupils are kept updated on school and Public Examination assessment requirements

Data-Tracking Points

All pupils will have three data tracking points, as outlined in the table below which are based on Common Assessment Tasks (including exams).

Year	Data Tracking 1	Data Tracking 2	Data Tracking 3
12 - 14	October	Winter Exams	March
SIMS	No	Yes*	Yes*
8 - 11	October	Winter Exams	Summer Exams
SIMS	No	Yes*	Yes*
*reported to parents			

These assessments allow HoDs and class teachers to monitor pupil progress, diagnose learning needs and forecast future performance. Appropriate interventions are put in place where required.

The Assessment Policy and its implementation within and across departments are monitored and evaluated by:

- Vice Principal Curriculum
- Heads of Department
- Curriculum Coordinators
- Heads of Year
- Learning and Teaching Committee

More detail about Roles and Responsibilities is given at the end of the Policy.

This policy works alongside the following policies:

- Controlled Assessment Policy
- Homework Policy
- Internal Appeals Policy