

Information on P Scales and National Curriculum Levels

Where pupils are working below Level 1 of the National Curriculum their progress should be recorded according to P Scales. The P Scales provide a means of assessing and recording attainment and progress over time across a range of subjects. Where pupils are making very slow progress the information can be used to assess the impact of support programmes for those pupils as well as reporting to parents.

Levels P1 to P3 are common across all subjects. For example Level P2(i) for Reading states:

"Pupils begin to respond consistently to familiar people, events and objects. They react to new activities and experiences, *for example, withholding their attention*. They begin to show interest in people, events and objects, *for example, smiling at familiar people*. They accept and engage in coactive exploration, *for example, focusing their attention on sensory aspects of stories or rhymes when prompted*."

This would be the same for all subjects, except that the examples (in italics) would be different.

Levels P4 to P8 are subject specific. Level 6 for Reading states:

"Pupils select and recognise or read a small number of words or symbols linked to a familiar vocabulary, *for example, name, people, objects or actions*. They match letters and short words."

Level 6 for Writing states:

"Pupils produce or write their name in letters or symbols. They copy letter forms, *for example, labels and /or captions for pictures and displays*."

Level 6 for Mathematics/Using and Applying Mathematics states:

"Pupils sort objects and materials according to a given criterion, *for example, sorting footballs into a net and table tennis balls into a box*. They copy simple patterns or sequences, *for example, copying a drumbeat; copying a simple pattern of repeated movements; copying a pattern of large and small cups*."

Copies of the P Scales are available on the QCA Website (www.qca.org.uk)

A useful booklet and DVD entitled “Using the P Scales” can be ordered from QCA using the following contact details:

*QCA Orderline, PO Box 29,
Norwich NR3 1GN
Tel: 08700 60 60 15
Fax: 08700 60 60 17
Email: orderline@qca.org.uk
Order ref: QCA/05/1589*

A number of published materials are available to support schools in their use of the P Scales. Many schools in Wigan use “P Steps Summative Assessment” published by B Squared. Details can be found on the B Squared website (www.bsquaredsen.co.uk) Examples of the “P Steps Summative Assessment” record sheets are attached to this appendix. A number of other companies produce similar resources.

Some pupils with additional needs may work through the National Curriculum levels at a very slow pace; in some optional SATs it is not possible to quote a NC level other than <L3, for example. In these cases it is difficult to show progress or the impact of intervention strategies. Again, there are a number of published resources that help schools to level pupils more accurately so that it is possible to show progress within a level. A number of Wigan schools are using another B Squared product called “Small Steps Summative Assessment”, which breaks the NC levels down into “*small steps*”. Examples are included to this appendix.

A number of other companies produce similar resources that could be used for this purpose.

In terms of statutory assessment (SA) it is therefore possible for schools to provide accurate assessment levels (teacher assessment with supporting evidence from other agencies), both when referring pupils for SA and when considering cease to maintain criteria, by using these resources.