

# *Life without Levels*

## *Fact sheet for parents*

### NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM

In September 2014, the Government introduced a new National Curriculum and announced the removal of National Curriculum levels. This has left Schools free to design and use their own assessment systems—there is no prescribed style.

The new National Curriculum lays out **objectives for the programmes of study** by **year groups** in English, Maths and Science and in **Key Stages** in the foundation subjects. Teachers plan to teach the objectives set out for their year groups but may dip above or below their year group objectives if a child needs more reinforcement in an area or equally more challenge.

Please go to the DFE website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum> where you can look out the objectives for each year group. There is also a link from the school website on the Curriculum page.

### CURRENT STATUS

The current SATs tests at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 will cease in 2015 and our **current Year 1** and **Year 5** will be the **first** cohorts to sit the new tests which are yet to be published. We are still unsure what the outcome of the tests will look like, i.e. a level, grade or percentage score and await a decision from the Government.

Our **current Year 2 and 6** will still be assessed under the old National Curriculum using the old style tests and will be given a National Curriculum level in July.

School are at varying stages of introducing their new assessment systems and the Government is aware that Schools will be in a transition period. It is going to be particularly difficult to track children's **progress** from the old National Curriculum to the new one as there is no correlation between the two and the expected standards have risen. However, we can assure you that the education of the children will not suffer; we will remain focused on where the children are and where they need to go next.

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### NO MORE LEVELS

In the past, children have worked towards the next National Curriculum level, i.e. level 3a to 4c, and have been set targets in order to achieve this. Now, teachers will be assessing children's progress against their **age related expectations in the form of year group objectives** and judging whether they are **securely** meeting these, **exceeding** these, (ie: working a year or more above) or still **emerging** (ie: working within previous year's objectives). Targets will be set to meet the next objective in the same way as before to ensure the children make rapid progress.

To make transition easier for the Gryphon School, the Pyramid Headteachers have decided that all the Sherborne Schools will use the same language and systems of assessment so that there is consistency of approach.

In the Summer report, parents will receive information about whether their child is emerging, exceeding or making expected progress against their **age related expectations** or **ARE**. It is the Government's hope that this will make it clearer for parents to understand how well their children are doing compared to national expectations. If you have any further questions, please talk to your child's classteacher during parents' evenings.