

The National Curriculum sets out a clear, full and statutory entitlement to learning for all pupils up to the age of 16. It determines the content of what will be taught and sets attainment targets for learning. The National Curriculum also determines how performance will be assessed and reported.

National Curriculum levels for KS3 are on a scale from 2 to 8. These are used to measure your child's progress compared to pupils of the same age across the country. Each of the levels is sub divided into a, b and c because progress within a level needs to be tracked carefully.

a – the child has reached the top of the level and is working towards the next level

b - represents working well within the level;

c – the child has started to work at the level;

So a pupil would progress from a 4a, into a 5c, then 5b to a 5a.

The national guidance for the end of Year 9 is:

Level 4 and below: below the nationally expected standard

Levels 5 and 6 : at the nationally expected standard

Level 7 and above: above the nationally expected standard

Target levels

Every student has a target level for each subject. This is the level we think they should aim to at least meet, if not beat! We expect them to aim for two sub levels progress each year, so a child entering in Year 7 with a level 4a in English, could aim to achieve a 6a by the end of year 9.

We use two methods to arrive at that target:

Teacher assessments – the attainment of pupils in each subject is checked as a normal part of teaching. Teachers will assess attainment against the National Curriculum standards at the end of each key stage by deciding which level best describes a pupil's performance in each subject using their knowledge of the work the pupil has completed throughout the year.

CATS data – This data comes from a Cognitive Abilities Test given by the school in year 7 and year 9. It gives a broader picture of a student's ability and learning style as it gives us scores for verbal reasoning, non verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning. As a school, we use this information to make sure the targets are suitable for each individual.

You can be assured that these are the best available methods, proven to be accurate. However, we always have many students each year who out perform their targets!

For some subjects studied in KS3, e.g. Modern Foreign Languages, students will usually have had less experience in their primary schools and so may start from a lower level than in other subjects. Targets may be significantly different initially than in other subjects but we have systems in place to ensure their progression so that they can be on a par with other subjects by the end of the Key stage.

Significant differences in targets may also occur in the creative and performing subjects, i.e. Music, Design Technology, Art and PE where students may have particular aptitude.

Further Explanation of National Curriculum Levels for Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9

Please find a list of subjects and the range of grades / Levels expected to be achieved within each year group.

	Range of National Curriculum Levels (set as targets) expected this year.		
Subject			
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Art	4c-5c	5c-7b	5b-7c
Biology	4b-6c	4a-8c	6b-8c
Chemistry	4b-6b	5a-7c	6c-8b
Drama	4b-6c	5b-6a	6c-8b
Design + T.	4c-5a	4a-6b	5a-6a
English	3a-6c	4a-6a	5b-7b
French	4c-6c	4c-7c	4a-8a
Geography	4c-6c	4a-6a	5b-7b
History	3b-6a	5c-7a	5b-8a
IT			5b-7b
Maths	5c-6a	5c-7a	6b-8b
Music	4c-5a	4a-6c	5c-6a
PE	4c-6a	4a-7a	5c-8c
Physics	5c-6a	5b-7b	6c-8a
RE	4c-6c	4a-6b	5c-7c
Spanish		4c-5c	4c-6c