

SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES OF ASSESSMENT INCLUDING TEACHER ASSESSMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Current Practice

	Method of Assessment	Reported to parents	Quality Assurance	Evidence of Attainment
Pre-school settings Age 3-4	Observation and interaction by pre-school staff.	No statutory requirement to report to parents.	None.	Pre-school transition form completed voluntarily by pre-school setting and forwarded to primary school.
Key Stage 1 Years 1 – 4 Age 5(4) – 8 Key Stage 2 Years 5 – 7 Age 9 – 11	<p>Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.</p> Teacher assessment. <p>Years 4 and 7 End of Key Stage</p> Ongoing teacher assessment. CCEA moderators will support schools which are due for moderation in that year eg agreement trials, exemplar materials and visits. No external testing but all teachers required to use four Assessment Units-(externally set tasks provided by CCEA) to confirm their judgement.	<p>Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.</p> Schools provide annual report of progress and achievement. <p>Years 4 and 7 End of Key Stage</p> Schools provide end of key stage report stating overall levels in English, Irish (in Irish medium schools) and Mathematics. Information on each attainment target available on demand.	<p>Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.</p> None. <p>Years 4 and 7 End of Key Stage</p> One third of schools are moderated in a rolling programme. Teacher assessed evidence and attainment in the compulsory Assessment Units provided by CCEA. Audit of the outcomes of Assessment Units of a random selection of schools.	<p>Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.</p> At discretion of school. <p>Years 4 and 7 End of Key Stage</p> School portfolio of evidence at Levels 2, and Level 4 (and Level 5, if available) provided to exemplify standards as applied in the school. Examples of assessed materials in Reading, Writing in English and Irish (in Irish medium schools) and two attainment targets in Mathematics are submitted for moderation. Assessment Units which must be taken in Years 4 and 7.

	Method of Assessment	Reported to parents	Moderation	Evidence of Attainment
Transfer Test Taken in November of Year 7 at age 10/11	Externally set tests which are clerically marked.	Grades A, B1, B2, C1, C2, D based on overall percentages of Year 7 cohort regardless of whether they sat the test or not.	Rigorous quality assurance is applied to marking procedure.	Score on the test.
Key Stage 3 Years 8 - 10 Age 11 - 14	Key Stage Tests at the end of Year 10. AND Unregulated and unsupported teacher assessment in Year 10.	Test outcomes are reported on eight level scale in English, Irish (in Irish medium schools) Science and Mathematics. Teacher assessed outcomes are also reported on the same eight level scale in the same subjects.	Rigorous quality assurance of marking. No moderation of teacher assessment.	Test outcomes None is prescribed. Any evidence presented dependant on school policy
Key Stage 4 Years 11 - 12 Age 15 - 16	Varies from subject to subject and is generally compliant with Code of Practice except where CCEA is piloting alternative methods of assessment eg Essential Skills (Key Skills). Teacher assessment based on an Action Based Activity and Desktop Task which is externally set within a particular context.	Overall grade or level combining outcomes of externally set examination and teacher assessed coursework. Entry Level and Levels 1 or 2	Outcomes of coursework evidence are moderated through a sampling procedure. Once a centre has shown that it meets the accreditation criteria and standards are confirmed then accreditation is given for three years. 5% of all centres are moderated to quality assure the process.	Prescribed by specification and compliant with Code of Practice. Portfolio of evidence is moderated.