

# Attainment and Assessment: A Parent & Student Guide



In September 2014 the Government removed the expectation that schools would monitor and report the attainment of students in terms of their National Curriculum level. This has allowed all High Schools to develop their own system for tracking student progress. This leaflet is designed to help you understand how we, at the Manchester Secondary PRU, have developed our Assessment Policy to allow us to report your child's progress.

Our new assessment system at the Manchester Secondary PRU is aimed at encouraging all students to achieve well in relation to the key skills, knowledge and understanding in a block of learning prior to moving onto the next block of content. Teachers have been working over the course of last year and this to develop Skills Progression Ladders for their subjects which allow them to monitor how your child is progressing.

To allow us to monitor and measure how students progress during the time they are with us we have introduced a new tracking system which replaces the old National Curriculum Levels at Key Stage 3 and links to the new GCSE grading system which uses numbers 1 (lowest) to 9 (highest).

To allow us to report progress over a short period of time, we have introduced fine grades which describe how a student is progressing within each of the GCSE grades as follows:

Fine grade	Description
<b>s</b>	The student has <b>secured</b> the skills knowledge and understanding within this grade and is ready to move to the next stage
<b>d</b>	The student is <b>developing</b> an understanding of the work within this grade but is not yet ready to move on
<b>e</b>	The student is <b>engaging</b> with this level for the first time

## Expected Grades based on attainment at Key Stage 2

This section is the school's attempt at describing the expected progression of a student from Key Stage 2 in mathematics and English. For other subjects where there is no direct Key Stage 2 information, departments use their baseline information along with these expected progression pathways.

Key Stage 2 Level		End of Year 7	End of Year 8	End of Year 9	End of Year 10	End of Year 11
Old NC Level	New Scaled Score					
B/1		Em	Em	1d	2e	2s
N/2		Em	1e	1s	2d	3e
3c		1e	1d	2e	2s	3d
3b	93	1e	1s	2d	3e	3s
3a		1d	2e	2s	3d	4e
4c		1s	2d	3e	3s	4d
4b	100	2e	2s	3d	4e	4s
4a		2d	3e	3s	4d	5e
5c		2s	3d	4e	4s	5d
5b	108	3e	3s	4d	5e	6e
5a		3d	4e	4s	5d	6d
6c		3s	4d	5e	5s	7
6b	115	4e	4s	5d	6e	7/8
6a		4d	5e	5s	6s	7/8/9

## Target Grade:

This is generated using the above information and FFT data (Fischer Family Trust). This is a national database used by the DfE. The target is arrived at having taken into account the actual outcomes of students in this school, fitting a similar profile as your child. The age, birth month, gender and Key Stage 2 data of each student is taken into account, this is then matched with students with the same or similar profiles and the outcomes they achieved in the same subjects at GCSE. This will be a number grade in subjects which have already reformed.

Each student is baselined, in all subjects, at admission to the PRU.

## FAQs:

### For students:

#### 1. What does it mean if I get a grade 4 in English and Maths this year?

A grade 4 means you have achieved the standard required for you to move on to further study (college or 6th Form). For this year, you will not need to resit your English and Maths if you have achieved a grade 4.

#### 2. What will universities ask for?

Universities can set their own criteria for the grades they require to study there. It is expected, for this year, that most universities will ask for a grade 4 where they would have required a C and a grade 7 where they would have required an A.

#### 3. What will employers ask for?

Employers can set their own criteria for the grades they require to employ you. However, they have been told by the government that for this year, a grade 4 is the nearest equivalent to a C grade. This means that a grade 4 is likely to be the minimum grade they ask you to have achieved.

## For parents:

1. **I want my child to aim for the equivalent of a grade C across all subjects, but I am confused as to whether they should be aiming for a 4 or a 5.**

For this year, due to the fact that the same proportion of candidates will get a 4 and above as currently get a C and above, aiming for a 4 and above is the same as aiming for a C and above. This is, and will remain the level that pupils must achieve in order to not be required to continue studying English and Maths post-16. The government has defined a grade 4 as a 'standard' pass. Where employers, FE providers and universities currently accept a grade C, the government expects them to continue recognising a grade 4.

2. **How will employers be informed on the differences with the new grades?**

Employers are working with the DfE and the exams regulator Ofqual to get the information they need on new grades. They have been informed that the new GCSEs are more demanding and that the new grade 4 sits equivalent to the bottom of a C grade.

3. **Will A Levels be changing their grades too?**

No, A levels will retain their current grading system.

## GCSE Reforms

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The Government have introduced the new GCSEs with the aim of **increasing their rigour** and further develop the **literacy and numeracy skills** of young people nationally to better prepare them for the work-place or further study.

There will be an emphasis on students acquiring a core of **essential knowledge in English, Maths and Sciences**. But specifications for all subjects will have a **greater depth and breadth of knowledge** required and the level of thinking needed to achieve the top score will be higher.

### Key changes

Some of the key changes with the new GCSEs will be as follows:

(a) All assessment will be at the **end of the courses in Y11**, with the exception of English Literature which may be taken at the end of Year 10.

(b) **Exams will form 100% of the assessment in nearly every subject**. Coursework and controlled assessments will cease in nearly all subjects.