
Key Stage 3

Mastery Tracking – A Guide for Parents

What's changed?

As you may be aware from the national press, National Curriculum levels have disappeared and are not being used in primary or secondary schools any more. Although the National Curriculum remains, it has been changed for all subjects to varying degrees but no standardised or formal assessment system has replaced levels. As a result, schools are free to design their own models of teaching and assessing students.

At The Weald, we have launched a Mastery approach to teaching and assessment in Key Stage 3. This means that our focus as teachers is on the long-term goal of preparing students for success at GCSE by preparing the foundations with greater breadth and depth of study, rather than ticking off a checklist to meet often arbitrary levels.

What do targets look like now?

We now assess students against a different set of criteria, using different terminology. Broadly, it works like this:

Mastery grade	Code
ACCOMPLISHED	A
PROFICIENT	P
COMPETENT	C
FUNCTIONAL	F

As we are a school which has high aspirations for our students, no-one will have a target of *Functional*, although we fully expect students to work through this standard in the early stages.

How do I know how well my child is doing at this point in Year 7?

Your child's report has for each subject:

- their **target**;
- a **forecast** grade (i.e. what their teacher predicts they will achieve at the end of Key Stage 3);
- their **progress** (i.e. whether they are *above*, *on* or *below* target);
- their **attitude to learning** (i.e. how hard their teacher thinks they are working); and
- **feedback codes** (which tell you if there is an issue with your child's work).
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Full guidance on these areas can be found in the 'Tracking Guidance for Parents and Carers' booklet on the website under Learning and Teaching/Reporting and Tracking Guidance.

How will I know my child is making progress over the year?

Subjects are broken down into concepts and these are covered throughout Key Stage 3. The Mastery approach to teaching and learning means that students must have fully met a standard across all of the concepts in order to move onto the next one. Students must demonstrate 'mastery' of the concepts in a range of different contexts to show that they truly have a deep understanding.

It is not unusual for students to be at the *Functional* standard at this stage in Year 7, as they have not yet had the opportunity to demonstrate this deep understanding in a range of contexts. You will know whether they are on track to achieve their target in the progress column, and you will know how hard they are working in the attitude to learning column.

You will receive another tracking report in the spring term, and a final one in the summer term.

How can I help my child to improve in all of their different subjects?

Your child will have received information from all of their teachers about what Mastery looks like in their subject. They will have a target in their book, and they will have seen what the criteria are for achieving each of the 4 different standards. Full details for each subject can be found under the 'Learning and Teaching', 'Key Stage 3' section of the school's website.