

The New Assessment Framework in the Secondary School Explained


You will be aware that the government has introduced a new GCSE assessment framework. For Key Stage 3, the government has not specified a grading system. The old Key Stage 3 levels (National Curriculum levels - now referred to as the old NC levels) can no longer be applied because the curriculum as well the standards have changed.

Schools are now expected to devise their own assessment systems.

This document explains the new:

- New GCSE grading structure and how this translates to old GCSE structure.
- Assessment framework that ACS will be using in the Secondary school.

The new GCSE grading structure



Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Previously, the GCSE attainment was graded A*–G and Key Stage 3 attainment was graded using the old NC levels.

New GCSEs will be graded 9–1, rather than A*–G, with Grade 5 considered a good pass and grade 9 being the highest and set above the current A*. Only a handful of highest achieving students from the country will be given a grade 9.

The new grades will be given for the first time in 2017 exam results for English language, English literature and Maths. By 2019, all GCSE results will be using the new system. Please see the diagram provided by Ofqual that compares the new grading structure with the old one.

The new ACS Assessment Framework

ACS' new framework will grade all secondary pupils according to 'Age Related Expectations' for each year group using a 7 points system thus:

- Each term pupils will be graded in one of the 7 bands in each subject according to this points system.
- Each subject teacher will assess pupils (using classwork, homework, end of unit test and end of term/year exams) and make a judgement on the grading from 1-7 for each Unit.
- Parents will be provided with an end of Term grade which will be an average of the grade for individual units.

1	Beginning	B	Pupils graded in these band are working below the expected level for their year group
2	Beginning Plus	B+	
3	Working Within	W	Pupils graded in these band are working within the expected level for their year group
4	Working Within Plus	W+	
5	Secure	S	Pupils graded in these band are working above the expected level for their year group
6	Secure Plus	S+	
7	Mastery	M	Pupils graded in this band are working at exceptionally high levels for their year group

The following table shows the grade boundaries that will be used to calculate grading bands following the average calculation of grades for each Unit:

Less than or equal to 1.5	B
Greater than 1.5 and less than or equal to 2.5	B+
Greater than 2.5 and less than or equal to 3.5	W
Greater than 3.5 and less than or equal to 4.5	W+
Greater than 4.5 and less than or equal to 5.5	S
Greater than 5.5 and less than or equal to 6.5	S+
Greater than 6.5	M

Example for term 1: There are 3 Units taught in term 1 for the Year 7 History lessons, these are: (1) Introduction to History, (2) the Normans and (3) Medieval Beliefs.

Unit Name	Grade
Introduction to History	4
The Normans	5
Medieval Beliefs	6

The **average grade** for this pupil will be calculated as a **grade 5** and the pupil will be in the **Secure (S)** band for their year group.

Unit Name	Grade
Introduction to History	6
The Normans	7
Medieval Beliefs	7

The **average grade** or this pupil will be calculated as a **grade 6.7** and the pupil will be in the **Mastery (M)** band for their year group.

The Average grade will be provided to parents for all subjects at the end of each term. Parents wishing to know individual Unit grades may request these during parent evenings.

Progress Chart

This “Student Flight Path” shows the expected grades for pupils who make GOOD progress from their starting points at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2).

The flight path shows GOOD attainment progress of pupils as they advance through the years at ACS. If pupils start in the secondary school at ACS on any band level (e.g. W) and they stay in the same band (e.g. W) for year then they will be making GOOD progress.

Student Flight Path showing Good Progress									
KS2		KS2 GOOD Flight Path Band	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	GOOD Progress Flight Path	Yr 11 GCSE	
OLD	NEW							OLD	New
1a	80	80	B	B	B	B	1,2	<=E	<=2
2c	81	81 - 85	B+	B+	B+	B+	3	D-	3
2b	84							D	3+
2a	87	86-93	W	W	W	W	4	D+	4-
3c	90							C-	4
3b	93							C+	4+
3a	96	94 - 101	W+	W+	W+	W+	5	C+	5
4c	99							B-	5+
4b	102	102 - 107	S	S	S	S	6	B	6-
4a	105							B+	6
5c	108	108 - 114	S+	S+	S+	S+	7	A-	7-
5b	111							A	7
5a	114							A+	7+
6c	117	116 -118	M	M	M	M	8	A*-	8+
6b	120	119 -120						A*	9

Note:

- there is no equivalence between old National Curriculum levels and new KS2 SATs scores
- the highlighted score ranges in the grid above is intended to give an indication rather than an accurate formula

Example 1.

- A pupil (SAWDA) had a level 4 in her Year 6 SATS if she took her SATs before 2016. If she took them in 2016 or afterwards, and her overall score was 100.
- SAWDA will be placed in Good Flight Path Band 5 (**W+**).
- If SAWDA makes good progress in each year at ACS she will remain in the **W+** band throughout her years at ACS and for her GCSEs SAWDA will be expected to get a **Level 5** in the new GCSE grades (which is equivalent to a low Grade B/high Grade C in the old GCSE gradings).

- If SAWDA makes less than GOOD progress then, she will move into the **W** or **B+** band and her GCSE results could be Level 4 or 3 (in the new GCSE grading).
- If SAWDA makes OUTSTANDING progress then, she can move into the **S**, **S+** and **M** bands as she advances through the years at ACS and then she can achieve Levels of 7/8 or 9 (equivalent to A, A* grades).

Good Flight Path Trajectory

By the end of the first term of joining ACS, pupils they are placed into a Good Flight Path (GFP) Band in each subject. This GFP Band is an indication of the GCSE grade that each pupil is expected to get if they make good progress in each year up till GCSEs. The GFP is based on how well the pupils have performed in the first term at ACS (as well as considering their performance in SATS (for ENG and MATHS), CATS and other GL Assessment test on entry to the school).

Pupils' progress at ACS will be reported on how well pupils are doing according to the GFP Band that they were placed in in each subject. Pupils can be in different GFP Band for the various subjects e.g. AMINA might be very strong in Maths and she may be on GFP of 7 whereas she may be weaker in History and her History GFP may be 3.

Good Flight Paths Progress Measure

After being assigned a Good Progress Flight Path Band, pupils' report will reflect how pupils are doing according to their GFP Band. So pupils will be

WSA	Working Securely ABOVE Flight Path
WTA	Moving Towards ABOVE Flight Path
WSW	Working Securely WITHIN Flight Path
ATB	AT RISK of Working Below Flight Path
WB	Working BELOW Flight Path

Progress Measure Table

		GOOD FLIGHT Paths						
		B	B+	W	W+	S	S+	M
		GCSE grade	GCSE grade	GCSE grade	GCSE grade	GCSE grade	GCSE grade	GCSE grade
		1/2	3	4	5	6	7	8/9
WSA	Working Securely ABOVE Flight Path	>1.7	>2.7	>3.7	>4.7	>5.7	>6.7	>7
WTA	Moving Towards ABOVE Flight Path	1.5 - 1.7	2.5 - 2.7	3.5 - 3.7	4.5 - 4.7	5.5 - 5.7	6.5 - 6.7	
WSW	Working Securely WITHIN Flight Path	1.1 - 1.4	1.8 - 2.4	2.8 - 3.4	3.8 - 4.4	4.8 - 5.4	5.8 - 6.4	6.8 - 6.9
ATB	AT RISK of Working Below Flight Path		1.5 - 1.7	2.5 - 2.7	3.5 - 3.7	4.5 - 4.7	5.5 - 5.7	6.5 - 6.7
WB	Working BELOW Flight Path	1	<1.4	<2.4	<3.4	<4.4	<5.4	<6.4