

# A Guide to Assessment in Year 10

## What is end of Key Stage assessment?

Each year, teachers assess children in all the areas of the curriculum and inform parents about their child's progress in the annual report.

When pupils are at the end of Year 10 (End of Key Stage 3) teachers make additional, formal assessments of their progress in Communication and Using Mathematics. This is end of key stage assessment. (Schools may also choose to assess Science and provide you with information about it in the same way).

## What is assessed?

The table below shows the areas that are assessed.

Communication (in English)	Using Mathematics	Communication (in Irish for Irish-medium schools and units)	Science (optional)
Talking and Listening	Processes in Mathematics	Listening, Understanding and Talking	Experimental and Investigative Science
Reading	Number	Reading	Living Organisms and Life Processes
Writing	Algebra	Writing	Materials and their Uses
	Shape, Space and Measures		Physical Processes
	Handling Data		

## How is progress measured?

Teachers use different ways to assess pupils through practical and oral work in the classroom and also through written work completed in class as well as through marking homework and class tests. Knowing how pupils are progressing helps teachers to plan what pupils should learn next. Towards the end of Year 10 the teacher makes a judgement, based on this information, about the level at which each child is working.

Using Level Descriptions, teachers measure your child's progress in each of the areas detailed above and assign the level which best describes performance in these areas. Combined, these make up the overall level in Communication or Using Mathematics (or Science) for your child.

At Key Stage 3, levels 1-8 are used with 8 being the highest.

CCEA also sets and marks tests\* in these areas. These tests are optional and schools may choose to use them with Year 10 pupils, so you may also receive information about the level your child achieved in the test.

*\*Pupils who have been judged to be working at Levels 1 or 2 will not have taken these tests.*

## What information can you expect to get from your child's school?

Your child's school will provide you with the following information:

- the level **your child** has achieved in Communication and Using Mathematics;
- the expected level in Communication and Using Mathematics for pupils in the final year of the Key Stage.

Most children are expected to achieve Level 5 by the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 10).

You will also receive information about the percentage of pupils in the school in that year group who:

- have achieved each level in Communication and in Using Mathematics;
- have achieved the expected level or above;
- are working towards the expected level but who have not yet attained it;
- are exempted from assessment.

If your child has been exempted from any part of the assessment arrangements this information will be provided to you.

