

Primary and Secondary National Curriculum

The National Curriculum is divided into Key Stages that children are taken through during their school life.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS)

- 1.1 The EYFS Profile is assessed when children reach the end of Foundation Stage (age 5) through ongoing and summative teacher assessment. Rotherham's Early Years performance in many areas relating to children's outcomes has been on an upward trajectory since 2009. The framework was revised in 2012 and due to the changes in the way children are assessed at the end of the Foundation Stage it is not possible to make comparisons between 2013 assessments and historical data.
- 1.2 The expected level to achieve at the end of EYFS is a 'good level of development' (GLD). A pupil is defined as achieving a GLD if they achieve at least the expected level for all eight goals within the three prime areas of learning: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development, and in all four of the literacy and mathematics goals.

Key Stage 1

- 1.3 Key Stage 1 is taught during Years 1 and 2 of primary school when pupils are aged between 5 and 7. This includes the phonics screening check which is administered to all children in Year 1. It also includes tasks and tests which can be performed at any time during Year 2, so children may not know that they are being formally assessed. These tasks and tests are designed to be administered informally as part of normal classroom activity. The results inform teachers' overall assessments in English, mathematics and science, which are reported to parents and the DfE.

Phonics Screening Check

- 1.4 This is a short assessment that was introduced in 2012 and designed to confirm whether pupils have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard by the age of 6. All year 1 pupils in maintained schools, academies and free schools must complete the check.
- 1.5 The phonics check will help teachers identify any children who need extra help so they can receive the support they need to improve their reading skills. These children will then be able to retake the check in year 2.
- 1.6 The standard mark is released each year after the check has been administered. It has remained 32 out of 40 from 2012 to 2015.

End of Key Stage 1 Teacher Assessments

- 1.7 The statutory Key Stage 1 tasks and tests in reading, writing and mathematics are designed to test children's knowledge and understanding of the associated programmes of study. They provide a snapshot of a child's attainment and help inform the final teacher assessment judgement reported for each child at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2, aged 7).
- 1.8 Pupils are expected to achieve Level 2b+ or more in reading, writing and mathematics.

Key Stage 2

- 1.9 Key Stage 2 is taught during Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 of primary school when pupils are aged between 7 and 11. Programmes of study set out what teachers should cover in every subject during the Key Stage. The Key Stage 2 national curriculum tests are designed to test children's knowledge and understanding of specific elements of the Key Stage 2 programmes of study. They provide a snapshot of a child's attainment at the end of the Key Stage.
- 1.10 Pupils are expected to achieve L4+ in reading, writing and mathematics and make two national curriculum levels of progress from the end of Key Stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2.
- 1.11 The Department for Education floor standard measure in 2014 has increased to at least 65% of pupils achieving Level 4 and above in reading, writing and mathematics and above the national median progress measures between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics.

Key Stage 4

- 1.12 Key Stage 4 is taught during Years 10 and 11 of secondary school when pupils are aged between 15 and 16. At the end of this stage, pupils in Year 11 (usually aged 16) are normally entered for a range of external examinations. Most frequently, these are GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams and a range of other qualifications, including National Vocational Qualifications.
- 1.13 The Secretary of State for Education announced that, with effect from 29 September 2013, only a student's first entry to a GCSE examination will count in their school's performance tables.
- 1.14 The first entry across the subject, regardless of qualification type, will be the one that counts. This means that wherever a learner achieves a BTEC and a GCSE in the same subject in the same year, the GCSE result will always take precedence over the BTEC result, and is the one that will be reported in performance tables, since the GCSE exam will always come before the BTEC Entry Date.
- 1.15 The threshold measures are 5+A*-C including English and mathematics and expected progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 in English and mathematics.