

**Willow Academy**  
**Assessment without levels**

From September 2014, the Government made a huge change in the way that children in schools are to be assessed. This leaflet is to give you some information about all the changes and what this means for the children at Willow Academy.

The Department for Education (DfE) want to ensure that children have a breadth and depth of knowledge at each national curriculum level and they felt that this was not happening under the old system.

At Willow, we have been working hard to develop a system that will enable us to track children's progress and report to parents. During the academic year 2015-2016, the school is in a period of transition from the old levels to the new assessment descriptors.

- Foundation Stage assessments are not changing in school or nationally
- Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are being assessed against new descriptors (see below)

We will use a system similar to that used in the EYFS:

- Emerging – Yet to be secure in the end of year expectations
- Expected – Secure in the majority of end of year expectations
- Exceeding – Secure in almost all or all the end of year expectations and is able to use and apply their knowledge and skills confidently. Meeting exceeding statements.

To show progress over the year we will break each statement into 3. At Emerging 1 your child will be beginning to have an understanding of the year group expectations and at Emerging 3 they will almost be at the expected standard:

Emerging			Expected			Exceeding		
.1	.2	.3	.4	.5	.6	.7	.8	.9

Under the old levels system children who were exceeding might have moved into the next level. The DfE now want children who are in the exceeding bracket to add more depth and breadth to their knowledge, and have more opportunities to develop their using and applying skills.

Therefore if your child is in Year 1 and is working towards the end of Year 1 expectations, for example:

Emerging 1.1, 1.2, 1.3  
Expected 1.4, 1.5, 1.6  
Exceeding: 1.7, 1.8, 1.9

The National expectation is that by the end of the academic year, the majority of the children should be assessed as being Expected or above within their year group.

During the year, when we have conversations with you about your child's progress you will be told whether your child is on track to meet the end of the year expectations.

As this is a new system, we are continuing to develop it throughout the year. If there are any alterations we will inform you with future consultations.