



## **ARK Blacklands Primary Academy**

### **Assessment Without Levels**

### **Information Leaflet for Parents**

#### **Levels in Schools**

Until September 2014, we had worked with levels in schools for over 15 years.. We also tracked children throughout their school life using national curriculum levels as our educational language.

#### **Changes from September 2014**

In September, the Government removed levels in schools for all children in KS1 and KS2. The Early Years curriculum has remained unchanged.

#### **What does this mean for schools?**

Schools now need to change and develop their assessment practices. This is a huge change for all schools. In response to these government reforms, all ARK Academies are working towards a common approach to assessment.

In September 2014, the Government also introduced a new National Curriculum. This too affected schools and how they will assess children.

The new National Curriculum is a mastery curriculum. Mastery is the child's ability to apply their learning across the curriculum. This means, children must MASTER the objectives taught, rather than just be taught them. Many objectives for English and Maths are now more challenging with higher expectations. This means children need to master a more difficult curriculum.

*E.g. What used be taught in Years 7 and 8 in secondary school must now be taught to Years 5 and 6 in primary.*

#### **How will we be assessing children now?**

We will be assessing children against the new National Curriculum objectives and using new 'language' to report to parents on how well their children are achieving these new National Curriculum objectives.

## New Language of Assessment

	Out	In	
Year	Levels	Internal Assessment	External Assessment
<b>EYFS</b>		At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	Good Level of Development
<b>Y1</b>	1a	At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	
<b>Y2</b>	2b	At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	At Expected Standard/Not at
<b>Y3</b>	3c	At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	
<b>Y4</b>	3b	At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	
<b>Y5</b>	3a	At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	
<b>Y6</b>	4c	At/Above/Below Age Related Expectations	At Expected Standard/Not at

The Government expects children to be **deepening their understanding** in their year group and applying their knowledge.

### Moving from one system to another

As your child moves from one system to another, it may well look as if your child has moved backwards. This is because your child is on a new curriculum. Your child will need to complete the entire curriculum for the previous year group before working on the curriculum for their current year group. Don't forget, this is a mastery curriculum. Children will need to master the previous year's curriculum in English and Maths first.

There is more information to learn and children must now master this curriculum before moving forward.

**It is important to note that expectations have increased with the new national curriculum.**

*Thank you to those parents who were able to attend a workshop on this topic. The Powerpoint presentation is now on the school website for everyone to view.*

