

Changes to the National Curriculum & Assessment

The DfE has introduced changes to both the curriculum and the way in which we assess children in terms of their progress in key stages 1 and 2.

So what does the new curriculum mean for my child?

The new curriculum is more challenging than the previous national curriculum and there are higher expectations of what children need to know, understand and be able to do.



However, we always judged the potential of children as they enter and travel through our school in order to ensure that we can help them achieve their very best. We do this through ensuring that our school curriculum is designed to engage and motivate your child to learn and to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the World in which we live and how we can flourish through mutual respect and responsibility.

How will my child be assessed?










The level descriptors used to measure your child's progress have been replaced with the term 'age related expectation'. This means how well your child is able to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to children of the same age. The DfE has produced programmes of study for each age group in the primary age range which details what children are expected to know and do. This reported in school year groups so for example if your child is in year 3 are they able to demonstrate their ability as other year 3 (age 8) children can across the country.

In order to ensure we are accurately judging your child's performance within or school, we moderate our teacher judgements across the school with other schools in the locality and we attend local authority moderation workshops to get the county perspective.

This is followed up in some year groups using standardised tests in reading and mathematics to obtain an age standardised score.



The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects covered by the National Curriculum.

Subject	
English 	<p>Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1) Handwriting - not currently assessed under the national curriculum - is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy. Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills.</p>
Maths 	<p>Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10) Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions (e.g. 0.375 = 3/8) By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school) Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic.</p>
Science 	<p>Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms. Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time. Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system.</p>
Design & Technology 	<p>Afforded greater importance under the new curriculum, setting the children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future. More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics. In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world.</p>
ICT 	<p>Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than operating programs. From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data. From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet. Internet safety - currently only taught from 11-16 - will be taught in primary schools.</p>
Languages 	<p>Currently, not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) will be mandatory in KS2. In Monkshouse this is French. Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language.</p>

