

Ensuring that the assessment of maths matches what has been taught



| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| School name: | Grosvenor Road Primary School | School type: | Community Primary |
| Region: | Manchester | Ofsted rating: | Good (2015) |
| Area type: | City | Pupil premium % | 42.6% |
| Number of pupils: | 461 | EAL % | 10.3% |

Why Progress & Assess Maths?

We researched quite a few different tests. I liked the fact the Progress & Assess Maths tests in Abacus split the Arithmetic and Problem Solving and Reasoning papers in two. I had developed my own tests, but it hadn't necessarily matched what had been taught. With the Abacus tests, I knew it would cover exactly what had been taught that term, even when we do tweak the planning from the framework set out in Abacus.

Key points to take away

- Progress & Assess tests now **cover exactly what has been taught that half-term**
- Highlighted that **children's arithmetic was solid**
- Broader focus on **problem solving**

Where do the tests fit with your whole-school assessment policy?

Our assessment policy puts teachers' own assessment at the heart. We use our Abacus tests to check and inform teachers' judgements. We also use the NFER tests at the end of the year.

Our broader recording of data is done using the NAHT Key Objectives. Behind each of these, I've split out three milestones for the year, e.g. in Year One counting forwards to 100 by Christmas, backwards from 50 by Easter and forward and backward to 100 by summer.

It has been difficult to set what percentage of objectives we expect children to have completed by each milestone. But, that's why I like the Progress & Assess tests in Abacus, as it tests children on what they've already learnt, and actually shows what they've secured at that point in time.

“ I like Progress & Assess tests as it actually shows what they've secured at that point in time. ”

What are your thoughts on the level of challenge in the tests?

I feel as though the level of questions fit quite well with our expectations as a school. They are challenging, but the new curriculum is challenging. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Progress & Assess has helped us by reinforcing the messages about the increasing level of challenge. It has also supported our message about mastery in our school, as a lot of our teachers had assumed that mastery was just for the most able. We want to give a clear message that you can master any objective at any level. The main thing is that just because a child can do long division, doesn't mean they can then apply it in context. The Reasoning paper in the Progress & Assess tests is helping us to deliver that.



What information did the test results give you?

The fact that Arithmetic and Problem Solving tests are split was very useful, as it enabled us to see where we still needed to improve in problem-solving. Over recent years we've had to really focus on getting the basics right, which has meant ensuring that children are confident and fluent with their number facts and arithmetic. Now we're clear that we need to work on children's problem solving. We're making sure when we introduce a new topic that children have time to practice a skill, and then apply it in two different ways through problem-solving.

I like that the marking guidance and test is linked completely with our teaching. It therefore gives us a real-time test, that I trust, of what children can and can't do.

What would you change?

I didn't realise there were printed versions available, it was a mammoth task to get all of the tests printed from ActiveLearn, so having the tests pre-printed would be great as it was like a bloodbath in the repro room.

“ Now we're clear that we need to work on children's problem solving. ”



Imagery with thanks to St Paul's C of E Primary School

“ It gives us a real-time test, that I trust, of what children can and can't do. ”

Find out more

To contact your local Pearson Primary representative email primaryappointments@pearson.com or visit [pearsonprimary.co.uk/impact](https://www.pearsonprimary.co.uk/impact) to see more impact case studies.