

Bagthorpe Primary School

Assessing Foundation Subjects



At Bagthorpe, we aim to assess foundation subjects effectively, ensuring clarity and purpose without unnecessary complexity. Here's our approach:

Why We Assess

- **Entitlement:** To confirm that children engage with the rich content and ideas in the curriculum.
- **Identifying Gaps:** To uncover areas where exposure, engagement, or understanding may need reinforcement.
- **Leadership Insight:** To inform leaders, governors, and trustees about pupils' progress.
- **Celebration:** To recognise and showcase pupils' achievements.

Challenges

Unlike maths and English, there are no national benchmarks for foundation subjects. Attempts to apply similar frameworks can cause confusion. Instead, we focus on what pupils produce as evidence of their learning.

Evidence of Learning

Assessment is rooted in reviewing the outputs children create, demonstrating what they **know**, **understand**, and **can do**. Examples include:

- Children's **reflections** on their learning through **discussions**.
- **Writing that demonstrates** new knowledge or insights.
- Results of **low-stakes quizzes**.
- **Physical performances** (e.g., PE routines or games).
- **Artwork** or **artefacts** created during lessons.
- **Visual documentation** such as double-page spreads or floor books.

Making Judgements

Teachers use professional judgement to determine whether these outputs align with intended learning goals. For greater reliability, samples of children's work may be reviewed collaboratively with colleagues.

The Benefits of this Approach

- Judgements are **informed**, not rigidly numerical.
- **Rich discussions** with pupils and colleagues **add depth** to understanding progress.
- Evidence gathered as a series of snapshots serve as clear examples of learning journeys and progress.

Core Principles

Assessment is qualitative, not about assigning numbers.

- Focus on **meaningful indicators** of learning.
- Emphasis on **celebrating growth** and **progress**.

By aligning assessment with these principles, we ensure a balanced, insightful, and purposeful approach to evaluating foundation subjects.