



The WASP Centre

Assessment and Feedback Policy

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1. Principles and Background

Assessment and feedback is at the heart of teaching and learning. It provides guidance to teachers and the opportunity for students to demonstrate and review their progress. At the WASP Centre we are committed to providing high quality assessment and feedback that supports teachers and students to identify gaps in and next steps for teaching and learning. At the WASP Centre, this includes not just academic learning, but also assessment of their behaviours and attitudes to learning which correlate to their rate of progress.

The overall aims of the assessment and feedback policy are:

- To ensure early and accurate identification of individual needs
- To involve students, staff and parents in the process and ensuring open lines of communication
- To ensure planning for students focuses on individual targets
- To ensure support, both in class and intervention is targeted, time limited and appropriate to the individual needs.
- To set realistic and relevant individual targets
- To use nationally standardised data to compare cohorts' progress, through the use of standardised literacy, numeracy and cognitive assessments, and GCSE and functional skills results.
- To monitor progress regularly
- To acknowledge, celebrate and reward achievement- both academic and personal
- To ensure planning between agencies is focussed and coherent
- To ensure marking and feedback is standardised throughout the school
- To raise levels of attainment and progress
- To ensure all teachers are receiving CPL with regards to assessment and feedback that is suited to their own particular circumstance and needs.

2. Purpose

The overall purpose of this policy is to provide a framework, detailing the procedures that staff must use to ensure consistency and standardisation of the assessment and feedback processes across the centre.

This policy is available on the school website, the shared staff area and on request from the Head Teacher or the Centre Manager in hard copy format. It should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Curriculum Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy
- Exams Policy
- SEND Policy

3. Types of Assessment used at the WASP Centre

There are four main types of assessment, each with its own purpose:

- **Diagnostic assessment**- used by senior leaders to assess students' literacy, numeracy, cognitive ability and social and emotional skills on entry to the centre and provide baseline data for staff, using standardised and other nationally accepted assessments.
- Day to day **formative assessment**- used by subject teachers in lessons, including verbal and written feedback on students' work, termly teacher devised assessments, targeted questioning, and regular review of learning.
- **In school summative assessment**- 3 times a year, subject teachers assess students formally to gauge progress, for example PPEs, end of unit assessments, distance travelled assessments for functional skills, ASDAN checklists.
- **Nationally standardised summative assessment**- such as GCSE results, functional skills exams, ASDAN awards, AQA Unit Awards, and Prices Trust Awards.

3.1 Diagnostic Assessment:

- Is used by the SLT to obtain baseline data and inform individual target setting and planning
- Is reviewed regularly to ensure best practice
- Ensures students' abilities and aptitudes are assessed in the context of nationally standardised data

- Allows leaders to identify gaps in learning and inform subject teachers to individual learning needs can be planned for
- Provides a detailed picture of student strengths and areas for improvement
- Is shared with staff via student Pen Portraits

3.2 Formative Assessment (*Assessment for Learning*):

- Is recognised by all staff as a powerful way of raising student attainment
- Is based on the principle that students will attain most when they understand the purpose of their learning, where they are and what they need to do to improve/move on
- Is used by teachers in all lessons to improve teaching and learning
- Ensures students know the learning objectives, both long term and for each lesson, and encourages them to assess their own progress and understand next steps
- Uses high quality, targeted questioning to stretch and challenge all students
- Identifies any individual needs that can then be addressed in future teaching and learning
- Uses constructive and informative written feedback
- Verbal feedback gives an opportunity for a dialogue between the student and teacher about their learning
- Sets individual learning targets and encourages students to reflect on these regularly
- Provides students and parents with a broad picture of where their strengths and areas for improvement lie and what they need do to improve, strengthening the partnership between school and home
- Informs future planning to adjust to the needs of all learners
- Is used in both academic and personal learning- all teachers are aware of and positive behaviour management strategies and students are encouraged to reflect on their own behaviour for learning and emotional responses regularly, to allow personal growth
- Can be formal (end of unit assessment or test) and informal (question and answer, quiz or quick fire)

3.3 Summative Assessment (*Assessment of Learning*) :

- Is important to inform students, staff and parents of attainment and progress
- Is used to inform target setting and planning for future teaching and learning
- Provides information about how well a student has learned and understood a given topic, or over a period of time.
- Records performance in a specific area at a specific time
- Provides end of year data to inform curriculum planning
- Provides end of key stage data which allows comparison against national standards
- Provides SLT with information about the performance of students and where interventions may be required, or where teachers may need CPL.
- Is recorded on SIMs markbooks to allow leaders to monitor and respond to need

4. Roles and Responsibilities

At the WASP Centre we follow an assessment calendar. It is expected that subject teachers will undertake 3 formal summative assessments, and 3 formal formative assessments throughout the year. The data from these assessments is recorded on SIMs and in the teachers' own markbooks and is used to inform future planning (see appendix XX). Within the assessment process are the following specific responsibilities.

4.1 The Headteacher:

- Ensures all assessment procedures are consistently applied in accordance with this policy
- With the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) analyses all students' assessment data to inform whole school development planning
- Ensures SIMs markbooks are accurate and up to date and (with the SLT) ensures barriers for learning indicators are accurately listed for all students
- Sets individual student targets against baseline data (with SLT and subject teachers as required)
- With the SLT, ensures agreed assessment procedure is implemented by teachers

4.2 The Senior Leadership Team:

- Ensures all students' records from mainstream schools are reviewed
- Shares all relevant information with staff
- Oversees and organises the PPE process
- Oversees and ensures all Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs) are in place for each subject area and that subject teachers are using these to monitor student progress
- Oversees assessment and monitoring of vocational subjects
- Oversees work experience and college provision
- Ensures records are collated and forwarded to any receiving schools/Post 16 providers
- Oversees initial entry assessments, collates and interprets data and disseminates to staff

4.3 The SEND Manager:

- Maintains the SEND register
- Coordinates individual support
- Advises staff on appropriate support strategies (including use of LSAs)
- Initiates and manages statutory assessment procedure
- Manages statutory annual reviews
- Reviews records from mainstream schools for students with SEND
- Shares information with staff via Student Pen Portraits

4.4 Subject Teachers:

- Implement the agreed assessment procedure
- Ensure PLCs for their subject area are accurate and up to date
- Maintain accurate records of student attainment
- Report on student progress to parents/carers, both formally and informally
- Contribute to termly reports
- Raise any concerns

5. Assessment Procedures & Planner

	Assessment	Type	Rationale	Recording	Reporting
On Entry to WASP (throughout the academic year)	Entry diagnostic assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection and summarising of data from referring school Reading and maths Access Test (age related skills) CAT4 (Baseline assessment) SDQ Goodman's PIXL reading speed 	 ST ST F F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of skills/knowledge known on entry Utilised to plan provision, teaching, targets and to access progress after a period of time Identification of any underlying need Identification and planning of holistic support needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIMS Mark book Student Pen Portrait SEND Record Excel Progress Tracker 	Students – understand where they currently are and next steps/outcomes Tutors/teachers – used in planning next steps Parents – understanding their child's starting point, targets and progress SLT – tailor provision and monitor cohort attainment
Continuous	Formative AfL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A during lessons Observational assessments Regular short re-cap quizzes Scanning work for student attainment and development 	F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral part of teaching and learning Understanding student performance on a continuing basis to enable identification of support/intervention required Evaluate teaching and plan future approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLC's Teacher Mark book SIMS 	Students – understand their learning, progress towards targets Tutors/teachers – see rationale SLT – tailor provision and monitor cohort attainment
Terms 1,3,5	Formative AfL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A during lessons Observational assessments Regular short re-cap quizzes Scanning work for student attainment and development End of topic/unit assessments 	F F F F S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral part of teaching and learning Understanding student performance on a continuing basis to enable identification of support/intervention required Evaluate teaching and plan future approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLC's Teacher Mark book SIMS 	Students – understand their learning, progress towards targets Tutors/teachers – see rationale SLT – tailor provision and monitor cohort attainment
Terms 2, 4	Summative assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE in curriculum subjects Behaviour for learning assessments Internal assessment and moderation of qualifications linked to vocational options 	F/S F F/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral part of teaching and learning Understanding student performance to enable identification of support/intervention required Evaluate teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLC's Teacher Mark book SIMS 	Students – understand their learning, progress towards targets and next steps Parents – informs parents of current progress against targets Tutors/teachers – see rationale Dual registered school - informs parents of current progress against targets SLT – tailor provision and monitor cohort attainment
Term 6	Summative assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE's/PPE's in curriculum subjects Behaviour for learning assessments Internal/External assessment and moderation of qualifications linked to vocational options 	S F F/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How secure a student was in their knowledge of the previous years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLC's Teacher Mark book SIMS 	Students/parents – information on how students are performing in comparison to national performance. Tutor/teachers – understand national expectations and assess performance in broader national context SLT – benchmark WASP's performance against other school locally and nationally, and make judgements about school effectiveness Trustees – individual progress by cohort

Key: F – Formative

S – Summative

ST – Standardised Test

6. Feedback Overview.

Our policy is underpinned by the evidence of best practice from the Education Endowment Foundation and other expert organisations. The Education Endowment Foundation research shows that effective feedback should:

- redirect or refocus either the teacher's or the learner's actions to achieve a goal
- be specific, accurate and clear
- encourage and support further effort
- be given sparingly so that it is meaningful
- provide specific guidance on how to improve and not just tell students when they are wrong

We acknowledge that marking should be: **meaningful, manageable** and **motivating** and the most important activity for teachers is the teaching itself, supported by the design and preparation of lessons.

7. Feedback Principles

Our policy on feedback has at its core a number of principles:

- The sole focus of feedback and marking should be to monitor, evaluate and review students' current stages of progress, and identify their next steps for progress and improvement.
- evidence of feedback and marking is incidental to the process; other than when additional evidence is required for external verification;
- written comments should only be used where they are accessible to students according to age and ability;
- feedback delivered closest to the point of action is most effective, and as such feedback delivered in lessons is more effective than comments provided at a later date;
- feedback is provided both to teachers and students as part of assessment processes in the classroom, and takes many forms other than written comments;
- Feedback is a part of the school's wider assessment processes which aim to provide an appropriate level of challenge to pupils in lessons, allowing them to make good progress.
- All students' work should be reviewed by teachers at the earliest appropriate opportunity, but no later than two weeks after completion, in order that the feedback might impact on future learning. When work is reviewed, it should be acknowledged in books.

Within these principles, our aim is to make use of the good practice approaches to ensure our students are provided with timely and purposeful feedback that furthers their learning, and that teachers are able to gather feedback and assessments that enable them to adjust their teaching both within and across a sequence of lessons.

8. Feedback and marking in practice

It is vital that teachers evaluate the work that students undertake in lessons, and use information obtained from this to allow them to adjust their teaching. Feedback occurs at one of three common stages in the learning process:

1. Immediate feedback – at the point of teaching
2. Summary feedback – at the end of a lesson/task
3. Review feedback – away from the point of teaching (including written comments)

The stages are deliberately numbered in order of priority, noting that feedback closest to the point of teaching and learning is likely to be most effective in driving further improvement and learning. As a school, we place considerable emphasis on the provision of immediate feedback. Where feedback is based on review of work completed, the focus will often be on providing feedback for the teacher to further adapt teaching.

At The WASP Centre, these qualities can be seen in the following practices:

Type	What it looks like	Evidence (for observers)
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes teacher gathering feedback from teaching, • Takes place in lessons with individuals or small groups • Often given verbally to students for immediate action • May involve use of an LSA to provide support or further challenge • May re-direct the focus of teaching or the task may include light touch/acknowledgement marking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson observations/learning walks • Some evidence of annotations or use of marking code/highlighting • May be reflected in teacher review register
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes place at the end of a lesson or activity • Often involves whole groups or classes • Provides an opportunity for evaluation of learning in the lesson • May take form of self- or peer- assessment against an agreed set of criteria • In some cases, may guide a teacher's further use of review feedback, focusing on areas of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson observations/learning walks • Timetabled pre- and post-teaching based on assessment • Some evidence of self- and peer-assessment • May be reflected in teacher review register
Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes place away from the point of teaching • Will involve written comments/annotations for pupils to read / respond to • Provides teachers with opportunities for assessment of understanding • Leads to adaptation of future lessons through planning, grouping or adaptation of tasks • May lead to targets being set for students' future attention, or immediate action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of work completed • DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) review/feedback sheets at least twice per term • Adaptations to teaching sequences tasks when compared to planning

Review Feedback

As well as providing students with immediate and summary feedback on the work they have completed, it is also vital that teachers build in opportunities to give criteria focused, targeted feedback to students on an individual basis. At WASP we aim to encourage effort and support our students to make progress; there is an emphasis on allowing teachers time to do this by having the opportunity to hold DIRT sessions on a one-to-one basis throughout the school day.

DIRT reviewing is the process of allowing students to reflect/act upon comments that have been written as both formative and summative feedback. Therefore, ensuring that feedback is being used and is supporting our students to progress further.

DIRT reviewing is the process of allowing students to reflect/act upon comments that have been written as both formative and summative feedback. Therefore ensuring that feedback is being used and is supporting our students to progress further. DIRT sessions are required to take place at least twice a term as well as following any summative assessment. These sessions give the teacher and the student opportunity to formally address and discuss written feedback and acknowledge understanding.

9. Marking Approaches

All work will be acknowledged in some form by class teachers. This may be through simple symbols such as ticks or highlighting of learning objectives.

It is not necessarily expected that staff correct every punctuation and grammatical error in every piece of writing. Neither will every spelling mistake need to be corrected. However, the spelling and use of subject specific keywords must be taken into consideration and feedback given where necessary.





Written marking and comments should be used where meaningful guidance can be offered which it has not been possible to provide during the classroom session. In the case of groups of pupils having a common need, it may be appropriate for teachers

to adjust planning or grouping rather than providing a written comment. Where a student has achieved the intended outcome and is well-prepared for the next stage in learning, this need not be annotated.

In most cases, written comments will be focussed on extended pieces of written work, or extended tasks. This will be completed and discussed with students during DIRT review sessions and will allow achievements to be recognised and provide further guidance for future learning and target setting.

9.1 Marking Code

Where written marking or annotations are appropriate, the intention is that minimum teacher time should lead to maximum outcomes. One way in which we achieve this is through the use of our marking code, which combines use of highlighters and stamps. The core of this code is set out below, although some additional subject appropriate elements may be required.

Annotation	Meaning
	Work which demonstrates that a student has met an element of success criteria, demonstrated a particular skill or achieved the intended outcome
	Work which needs further attention or displays an error or misconception (e.g. letter needing capitalisation; poor word choice; specific error in calculation, etc.)
	Incorrect spelling. This will be used selectively when marking work, focussing on spelling patterns which should either have been secured by a student, is specific to a subject or represent a student's next step in spelling development.
	Stamp to be used to indicate where effective verbal feedback has been given in class; which has involved the frequent use of open and probing questions and an ongoing dialogue as work progresses towards the learning intention/success criteria.
Further symbols/codes may be used in a manner which relates directly to success criteria for a specific subject	

ANNEX 1 TEACHER GUIDANCE ON ASSESSMENT

Diagnostic Assessment

A diagnostic assessment indicates what is already known and what gaps in skills and knowledge exist. With this information it is easier to plan the next steps and provide interventions where appropriate.

Formative Assessment (Assessment for Learning AfL)

'The dialogue between pupils and a teacher should be thoughtful, reflective, focused to evoke and explore understanding, and conducted so that all pupils have an opportunity to think and express their ideas.' (Inside the black box)

Formative assessment takes place during learning, allowing teachers and students to assess on-going progress. As learning and teaching continues further, formative assessments indicate whether teaching plans require amendment in order to reinforce or extend learning.

Formative assessments are used to:

- Identify strengths and gaps in skills/knowledge
- Identify next steps for learning
- Inform future planning
- Enable strategies to be employed
- Facilitate the setting of appropriate targets for the class, group and individual
- Take the rate of progress
- Facilitate an evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching and learning
- Inform future teaching and learning strategies
- Identify individuals and groups for specific intervention/support

All learning tasks are AfL opportunities and it is important that teachers:

- Clearly communicate with students learning goals and success criteria
- Use effective and differentiated questioning as opportunities to assess understanding
- Value all students' responses and views and encourage them to view errors as learning opportunities
- Give constructive feedback which indicate next steps students can take to progress
- Encourage students to reflect on their own learning and monitor their own progress

Summative Assessment (Assessment of Learning)

Summative Assessment sums up what a student has achieved at the end of a period of time in relation to learning aims and relevant national standards (end of topic tests, PPE, GCSE).

Summative Assessment (Assessment of Learning) informs parents and teachers of a students' attainment and progress. This will also inform SLT target setting and predict future attainment.

Summative Assessments:

- Identify attainment through one-off standardised tests at any given point in time
- Record performance in a specific area on a specific date
- Provide age standardised information
- Provide end of key stage data against which the setting will be judged
- Provide information about cohort areas of strength and weakness to build from in the future