

Formative Assessment & Feedback Policy

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Formative Assessment

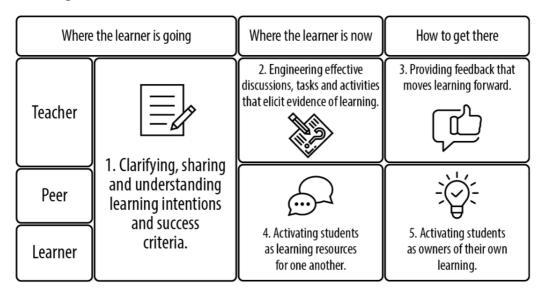
To support this policy development, the following research as conducted to help the school to define what is meant by formative assessment.

William and Paul Black (1998) define formative assessment as "encompassing all those activities undertaken by teachers, and/ or their students, which provide information to be used as feedback to modify the teaching and learning activities in which they are engaged."

Kate Jones describes formative assessment as "essentially a range of evidence informed strategies that teachers can use to support their learners to make progress." Moreover, William and Leahy (2015) explain that formative assessment takes place **during the learning process**. It continually informs the teacher and student as to how learning can move forward as it is happening. This is different to summative assessment, which focusses on evaluation of pupil learning at the end of the process, for example, an end of topic test that is not used as a low stakes strategy but perhaps used for more formal recording and reporting.

The table below is a summary of the key components of embedding formative assessment. The three key aspects are:

- Where the learner is going
- Where the learner is now
- How to get there



Our policy is underpinned by these headings to support teachers to consider formative assessment at all stages of the learning journey.

In addition, the evidence of best practice from the Education Endowment Foundation and other expert organisations 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
- Put the onus on students to correct their own mistakes, rather than providing correct answers for them
- Alert the teacher to misconceptions, so that the teacher can address these in subsequent lessons.

Notably, the Department for Education's research into teacher workload has highlighted written marking as a key contributing factor to workload. As such we have investigated alternatives to written marking which can provide effective feedback in line with the EEF's recommendations, and those of the DfE's expert group which emphasises that marking should be: **meaningful, manageable and motivating**. We have also taken note of the advice provided by the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics) that the most important activity for teachers is the teaching itself, supported by the design and preparation of lessons.

Key Principles

Our policy on formative assessment and feedback has, at its core, a number of principles:

- The sole focus of formative assessment and feedback should be to further children's learning;
- Formative assessment is an ongoing process that is used to fully understand the strengths and areas for development for all pupils
- Evidence of feedback is incidental to the process; we do not provide additional evidence for external verification;
- Feedback should empower children to take responsibility for improving their own work. Adults should not take this responsibility away by doing the hard-thinking for the pupil.
- Written comments should only be used as a last resort for the very few children who otherwise are unable to locate their own errors, even after guided modelling by the teacher.
- Children should receive feedback either within the lesson itself or it in the next appropriate lesson. The 'next step' is usually the next lesson.
- 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.

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

Section 1: Where the learner is going

1.Clarifying, sharing and understanding learning intentions and success criteria.



"If our students know where we are headed, we are more likely to arrive at the correct destination." Wiliam and Leahy, 2015.

Clarifying learning through the Looking for Learning approach (LfL)

At Woolden Hill Primary School we have created a learning focused environment in which we strive for every child to achieve and be engaged within their own learning journey. As a staff, we are dedicated to the belief that learning should be at the heart of everything we do.

LfL helps to establish in our school a shared sense of what matters by focusing everybody's minds from the start on whether there is any learning going on.

Our School Learning Definition:

"Learning is a limitless journey, developing knowledge, skills and understanding where all ideas are valued, risks are encouraged and thinking is challenged."

All lessons will encourage children to consider the knowledge, skills and understanding that they are learning. Pupil will also have the opportunity through their lessons to consider whether they are **developing**, **consolidating**, **mastered** or have **deepened** their learning outcome each lesson. The expectation in every lesson is that children will articulate their learning using a sentence stem to reason why they believe they are at that stage of learning. In Key Stage 1, they will be verbally. As children move through the school, this will become a written statement where pupils find examples of why they think this to deepen their meta-cognition skills, see section 3.

Pupil articulation of learning

Children should be able to answer the following questions:

- What am I learning in this lesson?
- What skills or knowledge am I learning in this lesson?
- Why am I learning this (what is the final outcome) and how will it help me?
- How will I know that I have been successful in this learning?
- Where am I on the learning journey and how can I get to the next stage?

Teachers should evaluate and reflect on their lessons using the LfL questions:

- 1. Is there any learning going on?
- 2. Is the learning appropriate?
- 3. Is the learning sufficient?
- 4. Is the learning engaging?
- 5. What are the adults doing to help learning in the classroom?
- 6. What is the school doing to help/hinder learning in the classroom?

Sharing the Learning Journey

Every unit of work, **in every subject**, will begin with a clear learning journey for pupils which will have been built collaboratively based on pupils' prior knowledge and interests. This will be a cover that separates each unit within their books/ online platform so that the journey for that unit is clear to see.

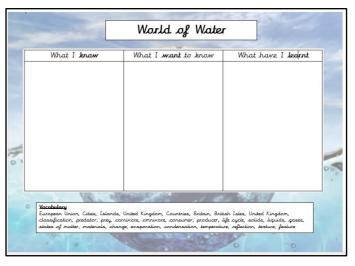
Pre-assessment activities will be used to support teachers to plan sequences of learning which review and build on prior knowledge. This could be through:

- Cold tasks in writing
- Low-stakes quizzing (see section 2)
- KWL (What I Know, Want to Know and What I have Learned) grid
- Pupil interviews/ discussions

Example front cover



KWL grid



Sharing Learning Intentions

Each piece of work, in every subject we teach, will begin with a learning objective. The children will record this in their book underneath the date. Success criteria are shared with the class on the IWB and in OneNote.

Opportunity for Challenge

Every lesson will include activities and challenges. These are accessible for all children to help them to develop reasoning and deeper understanding within their lessons.

Learning activities for the children to complete are categories using colour visuals on the IWB and in OneNote, if they are stuck into books they will have the coloured border.

Main Activity: main activity to support all children to complete to reach the learning outcome.
Challenge 1: further extension of the main activity to embed their understanding.
Challenge 2: opportunity for children to reason and apply a deeper level of understanding to achieve deeper thinking.
Stretch: in some lessons children will be provided with stretch activities, these may last for longer than one session and may require the children to complete self-led learning.

There may be further challenge throughout the lesson in the form of mini challenges or deeper thinking questions so that those who have the potential to achieve Greater Depth Standard are not left waiting to begin activities. These could be shared using asynchronous content.

Section 2: Where the learner is now?

2. Engineering effective discussions, tasks and activities that elicit evidence of learning.



"To teach well, we have to find out what students already know. But students do not always learn what we teach. That's why finding out what students do know is essential to good teaching." Wiliam and Leahy 2015

Teacher will use a range of strategies within their class to ensure that all pupils are involved in the feedback process. Examples include:

- Talk partners
- Diagnostic questions
- Randomisers including online and lollipop sticks
- Questioning in the classroom
- No hands up, except to ask a question
- Cold Calling
- Elaboration
- Asking children to SHAPE their answers
- Examples in action
- Mini whiteboards
- Retrieval practice
- Multiple-choice questions
- Hinge Questions
- Statements to elicit evidence of learning

4. Activating students as learning resources for one another.



The purpose of peer assessment should be simply, and purely, to help the individual being assessed improve their work." Wiliam and Leahy, 2015

Pupils will be encouraged to collaborate with their peers and support them with formative and not summative assessment, they will work together to achieve group goals. Peer feedback should always be kind, specific and helpful. Pupils can use strategies such as:

- Think, pair, share
- Paired retrieval
- Peer tutoring
- Peer placement prompts
- Peer assessment in action

Section 3: How to Get There:

3. Providing feedback that moves learning forward.



"When we elicit evidence about what our students have actually learned, we frequently find out it is not what we wanted them to learn; therefore, we need to provide feedback to get the learners back on track." Wiliam and Leahy, 2015

Providing Feedback to pupils

At Woolden Hill Primary, we believe that pupils make the most gains in lessons when feedback is immediate and misconceptions are addressed at the point of learning. Therefore, we have adopted an 'In the Moment' feedback approach.

Throughout independent learning stages of a lesson, the class teacher and learning support assistants will use their time to support and guide individuals or groups of pupils as errors occur or further challenge is required. This may lead to fluidity in groupings within lessons and subjects so that the needs of all children are met.

Rapid and responsive interventions may also be used and could be delivered by teachers or learning support assistants within the lesson. These may take the form of a pre-teach, in-lesson intervention and/or a post-lesson intervention. Interventions may also be planned using blended learning and asynchronous content.

Where necessary, further interventions will be planned with trained staff who can specifically target pupils with specific needs beyond the lesson to close gaps or extended learning further.

Marking

At Woolden Hill Primary School all work will be marked. Whilst generalised misconceptions will be addressed in the next lesson where possible, written, developmental feedback in books will be required to support pupils individual next steps in their learning.

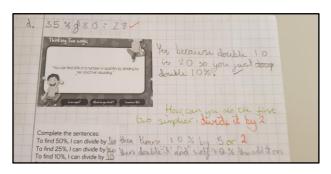
Basic skills errors must_be marked and children should be given time to polish their work using their polishing pen. In addition, regular written praise to highlight significant achievements should also be included in books/online platform to help children identify when they are making significant gains in their learning.

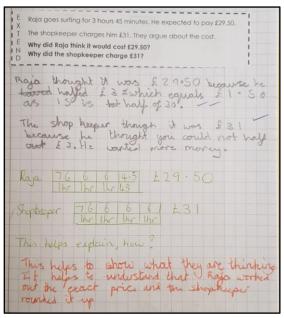
Teachers are required to identify the successes and areas for development using the agreed procedure:

- Teacher writes in purple pen and successes are shared in this colour
- Children's corrections and/or reflections are written in pink pen (polishing pens)
- Green pen is used by adults for all incorrect answers, misconceptions and/or basic skills errors to develop.

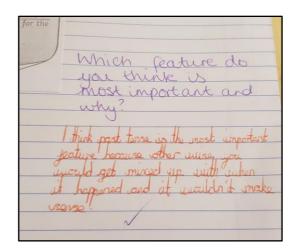
In addition, Dojo Points, stickers, Head teacher stickers and PROUD cubes (in line with our Presentation Policy) should be rewarded where necessary to indicate where a child has worked very hard indeed and has shown great progress within a lesson

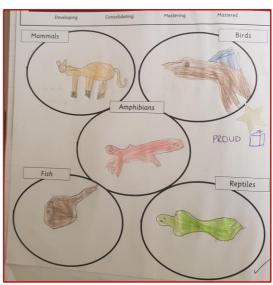
Examples of meaningful marking

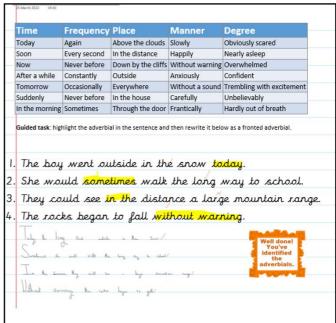






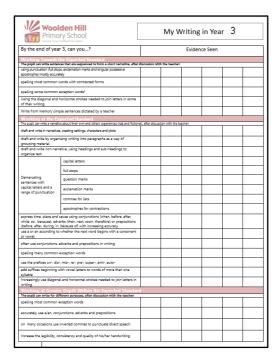


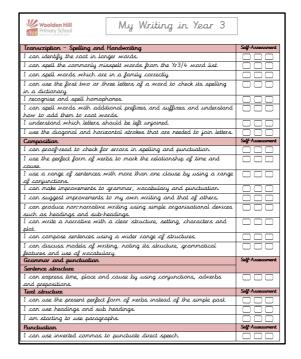




End of unit marking:

It is expected that marking is completed **in depth** for all end outcomes of work. This will require the teacher to refer to the learning journey unit overview and year group expectations guides.

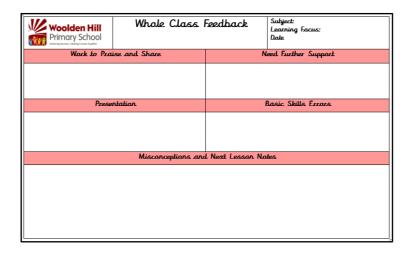




Whole class feedback

Whilst looking at books at the end of the lesson, teachers will make notes on the key messages to feedback to children at the start of the next lesson using the proforma. This will be completed at the discretion of the teacher although it is recommended that the teachers complete two per week for English and two per week for Maths and in all lessons where lesson outcomes are not recorded in books. For example, Talk for Writing story mapping or practical activities that last longer than one session.

This can feed into the next lesson and, using screen sharing techniques, can be a useful tool to address misconceptions and model techniques such as editing and improving work. Modelling may occur at any stage of the lesson to address deep rooted misconceptions, clear up confusion or provide further scaffolding.



Evaluating Learning

5. Activating students as owners of their own learning.

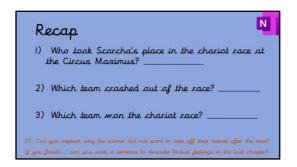


"When students are owners of their own learning, all the other strategies fall into place." Wiliam and Leahy, 2015

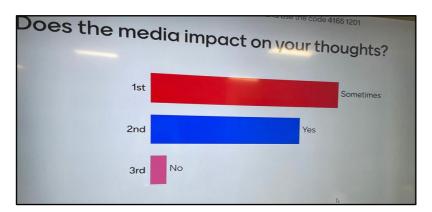
Reflections

To help the children to reflect on their learning every lesson, the 'learning journey' road map is always included on our learning slip so that the children can evaluate where they feel they are in their learning journey. This helps the teacher to understand who may need further support and challenge in future lessons.

In Key stage two, we will also ask children to write a written reflection about their learning. This will be written throughout stages of a unit of work to help the class teacher and pupil understand what will help to develop learning further. Developing this metacognitive approach to learning will help children think more deeply about the learning process and therefore find their own ways to reach mastery.







Children will also receive regular opportunities to peer assess in lessons to help support one and other on the learning journey, see section 2.

Equity

Work and tasks are structured to be challenging to promote progress. We have a wealth of experience at Woolden Hill Primary School; Teaching Staff, Classroom Support Assistants, Trainee

Teachers and Volunteers. Different groups will work with different support throughout the week and will also work independently. To ensure what support has been given a stamp will be made alongside the children's work which will state:

- 1. Teacher Assisted Work
- 2. TA Assisted Work
- 3. Independent Work

Other points

The Creative Curriculum promotes independent learning and all children are expected to investigate areas of learning. There may also be times when learning takes place through practical activities which may result in no written recording. If a practical activity takes place, the learning objective and success criteria will still feature in the child's book and assessed by the teacher and pupil. In some instances, the use of QR codes will be used to show the final outcomes. The school advocates the use of 'pen down days' and the use of 'voice notes' to feedback to children and to support teacher workload.

Progress and attainment will be evaluated by the English and Maths leaders on a termly basis and will ensure that children are aware of their targets according to the recordings and assessments from class teachers.

The Executive Headteacher and senior members of staff will conduct termly work scrutiny and lesson observations to monitor that the Feedback Policy is being effectively applied and that procedures are promoting progress for all pupils regardless of ability and position.

KS1 marking codes

K31 Marking Codes		
	Finger space	
	Full stop	
ABC	Capital letter	
wow!	Adjectives/Adventurous word choice	
+	Connectives (and, because)	
	See it, Say it!	
ph	Look at the letters, make the sounds and blend the sounds together	
sp	High frequency spelling mistake	
VF	verbal feedback	
CAT	Come and talk about this	
WCF	Whole Class Feedback sheet	

KS2 Marking Code

I have a **responsibility** to work hard and present my work to a high standard at school in every lesson and I have the **right** to know what I am doing well and what I need to do to improve.

My teacher has the **responsibility** to mark my books to tell me how to improve.

I have a **responsibility** to check through my teachers comments and think about (reflect) on what he/she has written. I will use the comments to improve and my correct my mistakes.

I have the **right** to know how my teacher will mark my work. I have a **responsibility** to check and remind myself of the codes that are being used.

Code	What it means
Purple underline	I have achieved the Learning Objective for today's lesson
Green underline	Shows me that I haven't yet achieved the skill for today's lesson and I still need to work on
Green underline	it. My teacher will show me how to improve.
Pink polishing pen	I have looked at my teacher's comments and responded so my learning improves.
√	Great- my work is correct
	I've missed out some punctuation or a capital letter.
SP	I made a spelling mistake of a word I should know how to spell
Sp x3	I need to correct my spelling mistake and write it out three times using my best joined up handwriting in the back of my book
\wedge	I've missed a word out
NP	I should have started a new paragraph
VF	The teacher and I discussed my work and told me how to improve
CAT	Come and talk about this
WCF	Whole Class Feedback sheet – shared in next lesson