

Assessment at Birchville School

27th February 2019,

Kia ora koutou,

Here is a bit of background around what assessment is and what it looks like at Birchville School.

What is the purpose of Assessment?

The statement to the right is from the New Zealand Curriculum Document. It outlines 'the primary purpose of assessment is to improve students' learning and teachers' teaching as both student and teacher respond to the information it provides'.

Assessment

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve students' learning and teachers' teaching as both student and teacher respond to the information that it provides. With this in mind, schools need to consider how they will gather, analyse, and use assessment information so that it is effective in meeting this purpose.

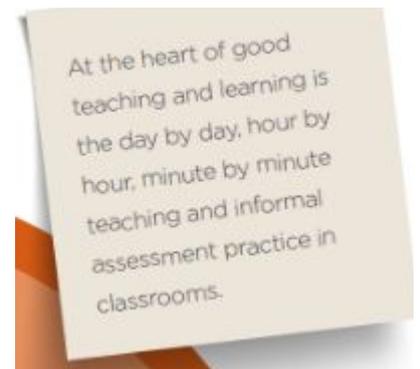
Assessment for the purpose of improving student learning is best understood as an ongoing process that arises out of the interaction between teaching and learning. It involves the focused and timely gathering, analysis, interpretation, and use of information that can provide evidence of student progress. Much of this evidence is "of the moment". Analysis and interpretation often take place in the mind of the teacher, who then uses the insights gained to shape their actions as they continue to work with their students.

What about National Standards?

Last year we saw National Standards removed and so you would have seen that our reporting changed slightly to reflect the NZ Curriculum Levels. There is a new emphasis from the NAGS (National Achievement Guidelines) that is focused on measuring progress and achievement across the curriculum and an analysis of good quality information.

What tools do teachers use to assess?

Teachers at Birchville use a range of assessment tools to assess progress and learning based on the needs of the students. Research tells us that the best assessment tools are the ones that are done 'of the moment' and involve the students through conferencing, questioning, explaining and discussing.



Why does parent portal show different information?

This year we have opened the parent portal on our school management system. You will see assessment data being uploaded as teachers enter that onto the system. Above each assessment there is a statement that tells you a bit about that assessment. The data on parent portal are the school wide assessments that teachers are required to track based on some more standardised assessments. These are similar to most schools around data gathering. Please note that different year levels often have different tools. For example the JAM (Junior Achievement Maths) Assessment is for primarily for Years 1-3 and students working at Stage 4 and below. The PAT Maths Assessment is for students aged Year 3 and above. There is an opportunity to connect with teachers at the end of Term One. Please discuss with them any questions you have about the assessments.

When will the learning be updated?

Our school wide assessment schedule looks a bit like this:

Term 1	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10
School Wide Assessment			Spelling- Schonell Test Test A Y1-6 Essential Spelling Lists Test	Te reo Māori Assessment Te reo Māori Guidelines	PATS Y3-6 Writing Sample	Running Records for all NE- Y1 and any Y2-Y6 reading below. Probe for reading age kids at or above Gold level	Phonics assessments Y1-3 and any Y4-6 who are working below in either reading or writing.	Gloss IKAN and JAM Assessments		

As teachers complete assessments (and some take a lot longer than others as they need to be done one to one) they will upload this information onto the system. Parent portal encourages you to check in every now and then, you will not be sent a notification. Alternatively if you have any concerns about your child's learning please make a time to meet with your child's teachers.

What about parent interviews and reports?

Parents are invited to book a time with teachers at the end of Term One. Term Two there will be a report against the curriculum levels. Parents can then book to meet with teachers to discuss that report if needed. Teachers may also 'request' a parent connect about that report as well. Term Three teachers will teach. Term Four there will be a full written report.

I hope this has helped to give you a bit more of an understanding around assessment at our school. As I mentioned before if you have any questions, please make a time to meet with your child's teacher.

Nāku noa

Cherie Toatoa

(Deputy Principal/Assessment Leader)