

Introduction

Kingsdown (MRCS) Secondary School believes that AfL (assessments for learning) are essential tools necessary for ensuring successful teaching and learning. Assessment involves emphasis on consistently setting and marking homework, setting appropriate tests, one-to-one target setting with pupils and their parents/carers. Pupils should be at the centre of our assessment policy. Assessments are meant to provide pupils the opportunity to work in partnership with the teacher and expect a variety of achievement recognised and celebrated. Assessments should also help pupils to review their progress informally with staff at any time. Immediate assessments should involve consistent use of plenaries, soliciting feedback from pupils and evaluating every lesson to ascertain the occurrence of learning. Assessment should take into account the special educational need of the pupils.

Staff at Kingsdown feel it is important to have an induction test to enable us to see how we can best help new pupils in their learning. The object of this exercise is:-

1. To establish as far as possible the individual learning style of the child (especially in light of the 'Every Child Matters' government programme).
2. The results gained from any type of assessment are useful for four main types of audience:-
 - Government/Ofsted/LA (used to judge the school)
 - Parents/Carers
 - Teachers/How well are we/I doing?
 - Pupils - how well am I doing? What do I need to do to improve? (AfL)

There are three main types of assessment which take place at Kingsdown.

Summative Assessment - is where all pupils are assessed to see how much learning has taken place at the end of the term. This can take place by either by a written examination, a verbal test or a tape recording (music) and a grade which the pupils can find out about by speaking to the appropriate teacher.

Formative Assessment - is assessed progress along the way. For example, pupils are given oral feedback, or if the subject is something more creative then pupils can assess their own progress by listening to their own tape recordings.

Internal Assessment - is where exams take place within the school, with a formal setting.

External Assessment - is where an outside agency assesses the pupils. For example, GCSEs.

Teachers at Kingsdown also have a duty to assess the personal social development and behaviour of all pupils, which takes place every term.

All these assessment strategies are designed to be an encouragement to help pupils understand where they are at, both in terms of academic achievement and behaviour.