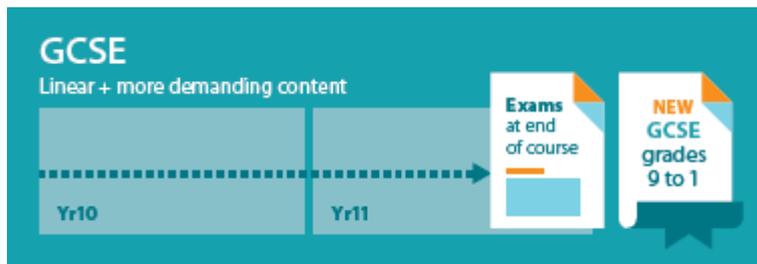


# A Parents' Guide to Assessment and Reporting changes at Blessed Trinity

There have been some key changes in Education over the last few years such as: the reform of the GCSEs; a new curriculum in Key Stages 1 to 3, and the removal of fully embedded levelling systems and descriptors. The following information will explain how Blessed Trinity will be working to address the challenge of these changes.

## What are the main changes to GCSEs?



- GCSE qualifications will be linear, with examinations at the end of the course
- The content will be more demanding
- Non-exam assessment will be removed or reduced in the majority of GCSEs
- The new GCSEs will be assessed with grade 1 to 9

Ofqual

New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)  
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

## **The timescale for GCSE changes**

Reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. They will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A\* to G. Students taking GCSEs over this period will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A\* to G grades.

## **What are the main changes in Years 7 to 9?**

- The curriculum at Key Stage 3 (as well as in Key Stage 1 and 2) has also been made more demanding
- National Curriculum levels have been removed as the method for assessing pupil progress in Key Stages 1 to 3

## **Why remove National Curriculum levels?**

When the Government launched a new curriculum, they also asked an 'Expert Panel' to review the national assessment strategies and procedures of schools. As a consequence of their findings, the Government has removed level descriptors.

Here is a summary of the main findings of the panel, chaired by Tim Oates.

- Levels resulted in children label-ling themselves.
- Levels created an 'undue pace'—focus was on getting children to move quickly through levels, whereas the focus should be on ensuring children have achieved deep understanding
- Levels are an odd idea—a child overall can average out at a level, so validity is low.
- Levels can convey the wrong idea of ability.

The core principle shared by the Expert Panel was namely: 'Fewer things in greater depth', rather than moving through the levels at pace. Therefore, schools have been tasked with creating depth within their curriculum offer in all subjects.

If you would like further information on the Government expert panel please watch this video online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-q5vrBXFpm0>

## The Blessed Trinity Way to assessing your child

Tracking your child's progress throughout their time at school and intervening when appropriate remain core principles for ensuring that each pupil meets their full academic potential at Blessed Trinity. What we are changing is the measure we use to monitor your child's progress and attainment.

- When a pupil arrives at Blessed Trinity we will use the information received from KS2 results to set subject targets based on grades 1 through to 9.
- So throughout their time at Blessed Trinity pupils, parents and teachers will be able to see clearly the progress being made towards a final GCSE grade
- In years 7 to 9 your child will aim to reach an end of year target grade
- At the start of Year 10 they will focus on their final GCSE grade

Progress between grades requires a new depth and breadth of understanding and to reflect this we have broken these numerical grades down in to 3 steps, for example:

4:1– Pupil has **mastered** the knowledge and understanding at grade 4

4:2– Pupil is **secure** in the knowledge and understanding at grade 4

4:3 - Pupil is still **developing** their knowledge and understanding at grade 4

We will also publish information comparing your child to National standards.

Of course as with any significant changes there has to be some degree of flexibility therefore we will constantly review our model to ensure your child makes progress, however currently we believe these adaptations will allow us to further develop the three core values of successful assessment:

1. All teachers being aware of individual pupil skills and understanding.
2. Expert staff knowledge of where these skills fit in to the new grading criteria.
3. Fundamentally knowing how to ensure pupils make the correct progress through outstanding teaching and intervention.

## Blessed Trinity Reports for 2017-2018

### Year 7 to 9

New assessment grades for All Subjects that reflect grades 1 to 9 and the pupils level of knowledge and understanding within that grade.

A comment based on predicted progress versus target.

Comments can be:  
Below Target  
On Target  
Above Target

		Current Grade	Predicted Grade	Target Grade	Predicted Progress	Challenge Target	Application
<b>Subjects Studied</b>	<b>R.E</b>	2.1	3.2	4	Below Target		G
	<b>English</b>	3.2	4.3	4	On Target		E
	<b>Maths</b>	2.1	3.2	3	On Target		G
	<b>Science</b>	3.3	3.1	4	Below Target		E
	<b>Art</b>	2.2	3.3	2	Above Target		E
	<b>Computing</b>	3.3	3.1	2	Above Target		G
	<b>Dance</b>	1.1	2.2	2	On Target		G
	<b>French</b>	W	2.2	2	On Target		E
	<b>Geography</b>	1.2	2.2	3	Below target		G
	<b>History</b>	3.2	3.1	3	On Target		G
	<b>Music</b>	1.1	2.2	2	On Target		E
	<b>P.E</b>	1.1	2.2	2	On Target		G
	<b>Spanish</b>	1.3	2.1	2	On Target		E
<b>Technology</b>	1.1	2.3	1	Above Target	2	E	

Current grades and predicted grades are reported using fine grades such as 4.3, 4.2, 4.1.

Target grades are given as whole numbers.

Application is a judgement made by your child's teacher based on behaviour, effort, homework and general approaches in class.

Application is graded:  
E – Excellent  
G – Good  
R – Requires improvement  
P - Poor

# Blessed Trinity Reports for 2017-2018

## Year 10

All GCSE Subjects are assessed using grades 1 to 9

Non GCSE Subjects are assessed using L1, Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*

A comment based on predicted progress versus target.

Comments can be:  
Below Target  
On Target  
Above Target

		Current Grade	Predicted End of KS4 Grade	Target Grade	Predicted Progress	Challenge Target	Application
Subjects Studied	RE	5.3	6.3	6	On Target		E
	English Lang	5.2	6.3	6	On Target		E
	English Lit	5.2	6.3	6	On Target		E
	Maths	4.1	5.2	5	On Target		E
	Biology	5.3	6.2	7	Below Target		E
	Chemistry	6.3	7.2	6	Above Target		G
	Physics	5.2	6.1	7	Below Target		E
	History	4.1	5.1	5	On Target		E
	Sociology	7.3	7.3	7	On Target		E
	P.E BTEC	Pass	Pass	Pass	On Target		G
	Spanish	2.3	4.3	6	Below Target		G

Current grades and predicted grades for GCSE subjects are reported using fine grades such as 4.3, 4.2, 4.1.

Target grades are given as whole numbers.

Application is a judgement made by your child's teacher based on behaviour, effort, homework and general approaches in class.

Application is graded:  
E – Excellent  
G – Good  
R – Requires improvement  
P - Poor

## Blessed Trinity Reports for 2017-2018

### Year 11

Many GCSE Subjects are assessed using grades 1 to 9

The following GCSE Subjects are assessed using legacy A\*-G grades: Business Studies, Health and Social care, Hospitality, ICT, Sociology and Technologies.

Non GCSE Subjects are assessed using L1, Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*

A comment based on predicted progress versus target.

Comments can be:  
Below Target  
On Target  
Above Target

		Mock Exam Result	Predicted Grade	Target Grade	Predicted Progress	Challenge Target	Application
		4	6.3	7	Below Target		G
Subjects Studied	English Lang	5	5.1	8	Below Target		G
	English Lit	6	5.2	8	Below Target		G
	Maths	6	7.1	7	On Target		G
	Biology	5	7.2	7	On Target		E
	Chemistry	5	7.3	7	On Target		G
	Physics	4	7.3	7	On Target		E
	Computing	7	7.2	8	Below Target		E
	French	4	5.2	6	Below Target		G
	P.E BTEC	Pass	Pass	Pass	On Target		G
	ICT	E	C3	C	On Target		R

Current grades and predicted grades for GCSE subjects are reported using fine grades such as 4.3, 4.2, 4.1.

Target grades are given as whole numbers.

Application is a judgement made by your child's teacher based on behaviour, effort, homework and general approaches in class.

Application is graded:

E – Excellent

G – Good

R – Requires improvement

P - Poor