



Compass Learning Centre

Assessment Policy 2021-2022

(Inc amendments made due to COVID pandemic 2019/20 & 2020/21)

Governors' Committee responsible	Teaching & Learning Committee
Link Senior Governor	Chair of Committee
Link SLT	Deputy Head
Date Reviewed	May 2021
Next Review Date	May 2022
Key Linked Policies / Documents	SEN Policy Learning and Teaching Policy Marking and Presentation Policy Behaviour Policy Archived Assessment Policy if required

Our aim is to help all our learners unlock their potential in life and work

20.3.2019

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CM Kee
Signed & date
Chair of Compass Governing Board

Alison Glazier Signed & date
Head teacher

Assessment for Learning, Practice and Procedure

Aim

- To provide clear guidelines to the centres approach to assessment, recording and reporting
- To establish a coherent and consistent approach to assessment across all subjects and off-site provision
- To provide a system that is clear to learners, staff and parents/carers that promotes good learning and teaching

Introduction

Assessment encompasses a wide range of activities, formal and informal, summative and formative. Summative assessment (external, internal exams, end of key stage assessment) has a place in providing a summary of achievement (assessment of learning) over a set time period. However, research evidence informs us that a robust formative assessment or Assessment for Learning (AfL) has the largest impact on motivation, attainment and achievement. AfL involves the continuous use of classroom assessment (a wide range of methods) to improve learning.

The following is an attempt to:

- Provide a structure which learners recognise
- Provide a practice model which is realistic and attainable for teachers in terms of workload
- Minimise the need for summative assessment

The policy provides a framework for all assessment practices throughout the centre and off site provision. Off-site providers will develop assessment policies and practices which are consistent with Compass policy. Schemes of Work and awarding bodies will specify assessment methods and opportunities.

Formal assessment at Compass Learning Centre

On entry, students complete a variety of assessments that, along with other information, provide a baseline for all further assessment:

- Baseline Assessment from GL
- Reading Assessment
- EHCP Assessment if required

This in turn, sets a pathway or flightpath of the impact that teaching at Compass has on the young person. This is recorded as APS points and is compared to 9-1 GCSE boundaries to give an accurate working at and target grade.

Tracking Student progress

Recordkeeping

Each subject teacher is responsible for maintaining up to date progress records of all young people. This information will inform the fixed assessment process

Fixed Assessment Point

Baseline and Interim

At Compass, all subjects have termly data collection points where teachers record current attainment grades. These judgements are a measure of progress towards qualification/exam board criteria and in relation to their predicted target grade for the end of the year and progress from their baseline assessment. This is the interim assessment and the grade is known as 'Working At' grade.

'Working At' Grades

This is a measure of current attainment. It must be informed by moderated assessments (against exam board criteria) of the young person's work.

In BTEC and other modular subjects the assessments should be based on modules completed to date or units achieved. In these subject, 'Working at Grades' are likely to give a good indication of the final result that the student will achieve. In other subjects with terminal examinations, working at grades will need to be interpreted by considering probable 'flight paths' for that subject and by comparing the student's attainment to their interim, end of year target.

Issues/Intervention/Impact

After each termly data entry, teachers are required to complete the Subject development plan to identify issues that are inhibiting or enabling progress. Strategies and interventions are assessed and new ones developed to enable students to improve their attainment. Factors for under achievement such as persistent absenteeism, poor behaviour or non-engagement should be recorded. This should inform discussions with SENCO, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Leading Practitioner.

This information ensures that learners are placed on appropriate programmes of study. Teachers should constantly monitor learner understanding and progress through questioning, discussion and observation. What follows is an attempt to 'capture' formal assessment processes.

- Marking work regularly ensuring written and verbal feedback
- AfL strategies including questioning, verbal and written feedback, peer and self-assessment, exemplification all with reference to focused learning objectives or targets.
- Attainment will be assessed using criteria set out in exam specifications.
- Students should have the opportunity to develop their own understanding of different grades/levels and how to progress to the next one.
- Progress tracking will take place every term and provide information to inform future planning and interventions.

So learners are supported to develop self-reflection skills, teachers should:

- Provide peer and self-assessment opportunities
- Explain the learning outcomes and their relationship to the learning objective
- Explain and model clear success criteria
- Support students to develop appropriate language to assess their own work
- Encourage learner reflection throughout the learning process
- Guide learners to identify the next step

Monitoring

- Work scrutiny will take twice a year and be evaluated using specific criteria
- All feedback will be recorded and assessed in accordance with the guidance for marking and will demonstrate evidence of AfL and will be monitored by SLT and Middle Leaders and through peer standardisation.

Assessment and Reporting Schedule

- The centre publishes the assessment calendar to all the provisions. This contains the deadlines for the data collection and reporting to parents/carers.
- The data is collated
- Pupil Progress meetings will take place soon after where Teachers and Mentors discuss progress of individuals and plan support strategies.
- Progress review meetings will be held straight after that. Mentors will use the Pupil Progress document to inform and record that progress

Assessment for Learning Framework

Good Assessment for learning practice is much more than providing summative judgements on a learner's level or grade and the recording of this judgements. The table below summarises the key characteristics of Assessment for Learning. Key characteristics that we should all strive to incorporate into our daily practice and into every lesson.

Key characteristics of assessment learning	Teaching strategies
Sharing learning objectives with pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share learning objectives at the beginning of each lesson and where appropriate, during the lesson in language that pupils can understand • Use these objectives as the basis for questioning and feedback during plenaries • Evaluate this feedback in relation to achievement of the learning objectives to inform the next stages planning.
Helping pupils to know and recognise the standards they are aiming for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show pupils work that has met criteria, with explanations of why. • Give pupils clear success criteria then relate them to the learning objectives. • Model what it should look like. Eg exemplify good writing on the board. • Ensure that there are clear, shared expectations about the presentation of work.
Involving pupils in peer and self-assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give pupils clear opportunities to talk about what they have learned and what they are finding difficult, using the learning objectives as a focus. • Encourage pupils to work/discuss together, focussing upon how to improve • Ask pupils to explain the steps in their thinking: 'How did you get that answer?' • Give time for pupils to reflect upon their learning.
Providing feedback which leads to pupils recognising their next steps and how to take them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value oral as well as written feedback. • Ensure feedback is constructive as well as positive, identifying what the pupil has done to improve and how to do it. • Identify the next steps for individuals and groups as appropriate.

Promoting confidence that every pupil can improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify small steps to enable pupils to see their progress, thereby building confidence and self-esteem. • Encourage pupils to explain their thinking and reasoning within a secure classroom ethos.
Involving both teacher and pupil in reviewing and reflecting on assessment information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect with pupils on their work – for example, through a storyboard of steps taken during an investigation. • Choose appropriate tasks to provide quality assessment information (emphasis on process, not just the correct answer). • Provide time for pupils to reflect upon what they have learned and understood and to identify where they still have difficulties. • Adjust planning; evaluate effectiveness of task, resources, etc as a result of assessment.

Examination changes due to Covid 19

Sadly it has not been possible to run examinations in the 'normal' way for the past 2 years in schools. This has meant the need to do things differently with the guidance set out from government and JCQ.

2019-20 - Centre Assessed Grade (CAG). Teachers and school leaders used the evidence that students had produced to provide an accurate GCSE grade for each subject area. This involved using pupil progress files, student books / folders and marked work. All used alongside the progress tracking information for each of the students.

2020-21 - Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG). With exams cancelled again, school leaders used guidance from JCQ to ensure all teachers provided a folder of evidence for each student in each subject that has been internally and externally moderated. This alongside examination questions provided by JCQ have been used to determine an accurate grade to submit for each student.

We are currently unaware of how next year's cohort may be affected by any changes.

June 2021.