

Key Stage 3 – Report FAQs

1. How does the assessment system work?

The system we use with Key Stage 3 (KS3) is based upon KS3 & KS4 expected progress which is then linked directly to students' Target Grades. Students' yearly targets are calculated using pre-determined flightpaths for each subject which vary from student to student and from subject to subject.

The individual targets have been determined using the FFT system based on a student's prior attainment in their SATS or their CATS to ensure that, if achieved, the student will be 'in line with' or 'above' the national expectations.

2. What is a 'Progress' grade and how is it calculated?

Throughout the year students will complete assessments that are internally moderated and graded. Their achievements are then compared to their target grades to provide a clearer picture of progress for that student at that particular time of year. It is important to remember that students are not expected to meet their targets until the Summer Term but should certainly be working towards them. These assessments allow teachers to highlight students that are not making the expected progress towards their end of year target and allow for additional intervention where required.

3. What do the colours mean?

The Progress Grade column is coloured according to the progress that the student is making towards their target for this academic year. Students may make further progress one term compared to another and there may be circumstances beyond their control throughout the year. Keeping the end goal in sight allows students to personalise their progress journey. This colour system is designed to highlight where a student may not achieve their target for this academic year. The colours are allocated as follows:

'Purple' or 'Exceeding' is populated automatically if the student's current grade is above where the student is expected to be at the end of the academic year.

'Green' or 'Meeting' is populated automatically if the student's current grade is the same as where the student is expected to be at the end of the academic year.

'Yellow' or 'Developing' is populated automatically if the student's current grade is slightly below where the student is expected to be at the end of the academic year.

'Red' or 'Cause for Concern' is populated automatically if the student's current grade is significantly below where the student is expected to be at the end of the academic year.

4. What is ATL and why is it important?

At certain points throughout the year subject teachers will be asked to provide an 'Attitude to Learning' grade for each student from a list of 4:

1. Student typically shows very high levels of engagement, courtesy, collaboration and cooperation. An excellent, enthusiastic attitude to learning is shown through exemplary behaviour and application to classwork and focus in lessons is excellent.
2. Student is typically considerate, respectful and courteous to staff and other students. A good and positive attitude to learning is shown through good behaviour in lessons: classwork will always be completed and to a good standard. Focus in lessons is good.
3. Student may need prompting to respond to a teacher's direction in class. Classwork may only be partially completed. Focus and attitude in lessons requires improvement.
4. Student's lack of engagement and focus impacts more than occasionally to reduce learning. Classwork will often be incomplete. Focus in lessons is unsatisfactory.

These scores should help you to closely pinpoint where any issues may be occurring with your child whilst they progress towards their targets. These will usually be the first columns that we look at when mentoring students before any reference is made to progress, as experience tells us that attitude to learning is key in terms of progress and achievement.

5. My child has received a '3' or '4' for ATL in many of their subjects, should I be concerned?

You are right to be concerned. The report enables you to establish whether there are common areas of concern from each of your child's teachers and help you support your child to move forward positively. The aim of this measure is to ensure that students are aware of the high expectations that we have set in school and encourage them to be demonstrating the high levels of engagement and application expected of them – which many of our students already do consistently. The first port of call if you have any concerns, is to the subject teacher, however if you have a more general concern then please contact the Head of Year. This will allow the school to work with you to determine any support that could be put in place to help your child improve. This could range from organisational support, to behavioural conversations or encouragement to act upon feedback.

If you have any questions regarding KS3 reports, please feel free to speak to subject teachers or the Head of Year.

6. Will reports be posted home?

No, reports have now gone online using Go4Schools and this gives you real-time access to your child's progress. You will receive an email when a specific new report is available for you to view.