



The McAuley Catholic High School and Sixth Form

An 11 – 18 Voluntary Academy in the Diocese of Hallam

Headteacher: Mr James Tucker

Chair of Governors: Dr Pat Hurley

31st October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Information regarding Assessment

How is my child assessed at McAuley in Year 7-9?

When your child joins McAuley school we use their scores from the national SATs tests they take in Year 6. We take an average of those results and this generates targets. We do this to help your child's teachers to plan appropriate work and activities in their lessons. During the year, teachers regularly assess students' progress – every lesson teachers are assessing progress so they can better plan next lessons and adapt when or if gaps in knowledge emerge or if students have misconceptions.

In KS3 Year 7-9 we use '**age related expectations**'. This helps to support the view that every child is unique and will enter McAuley at different starting points.

We use the terms;

- Developing
- Intermediate
- Secure
- Exceeding

For example, if your child scored a scaled score of 100 at SATs Year 6 this would translate into the intermediate KS3 target and a KS4 target of a 4/5. Teachers would then plan lessons for your child that allows them to access the work in the intermediate level in Year 7,8 and 9. The criteria to attain an intermediate would be more challenging in Year 8 than in Year 7 – This stepped approach helps support your child to develop and progress at their age related expectation. Age related criteria means that the level and depth of challenge will increase over time – so if your child stays in the intermediate band in Year 7- 9 they are meeting expected progress for their ability.

We ensure stretch and challenge is provided for all students – we help support students to attempt and access work in the band higher than their target if we feel appropriate. This gives students the opportunity to make more progress than expected.

Departments in school have mapped out what each age-related band would look like in their subject. This is shared with students so they can see what it would take to meet expectations and also achieve higher and have the aspiration to attempt the challenge activities.

School will report home three times each year – a report example below;



“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” John 10:10

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Example of what you will see on a report home after a SAR collection. SAR collections happen 3 times across the year - opportunity for teachers to communicate home with you about how your child is doing.

Subject	Class Teacher	Departmental Target Band/22	Attainment Band SAR1	ATL 3	Attainment Band SAR2	ATL 5	Attainment Band SAR3	ATL 7
Art	[Redacted]	I	G	G	G	G	I	G
Computer Science		I	I	RI	D	SC	D	RI
Drama		I	I	G	I	E	I	G
English		I	I	RI	I	SC	I	RI
French		I	D	RI	D	RI	D	RI
Geography		I	D	G	D	G	D	G
History		I	D	RI	D	RI	D	G
Maths		I	I	RI	D	G	D	G
Music		I	I	G	I	G	I	G
Physical Education		I	D	G	I	RI	I	I
Religious Ed		I	D	G	D	RI	I	I
Science		I	SC	RI	D	RI	D	D
Technology		I	I	G	I	G	I	I
Literacy - Attitude to Learning if applicable								



The reports are colour coded so you can see green means on track, orange is starting to show a student not meeting expectations and red would be a serious concern. On each report you will see the attainment band so the academic progress your child is making in each subject and you will also see an attitude to learning grade (ATL)

- E – Excellent
- G – Good
- RI – Requires improvement
- SC – Serious concern

Attitude to learning and academic performance are quite often linked. Criteria for how ATL grades are awarded can be found in the other document attached to this email.

How can you best support your child at home?

Please discuss the report with your child. Talk to them about what makes good attitude to learning. Things such as; being prepared, equipped and asking questions. Contributing to discussions and trying to complete work and accessing challenge activities. If you have any concerns, then please contact form tutors to discuss. They will be able to communicate with your child’s teachers. If you have any questions about assessment at KS3 please do not hesitate to contact.

Best wishes

Jenna McGee

jmcgee@mcauley.org.uk

Associate Head Teacher