

STEPS - KS3 Assessment and Progress Monitoring

Summary of Changes to the STEPS System (by Subject)

Subject	Changes Since September 2014
Art	Minor alterations to wording and structure, but significant review of and changes to the baseline assessment process and interpretation. This meant a significant realignment for many pupils last year.
Drama	Minor alterations and additions to wording in some Steps and some review of assessment procedures which lead to the Step Scores for each Strand.
Design Technology*	Created to replace the Step Grids for Resistant Materials and Textiles. This fits more appropriately with developments and progression to the new GCSE. The baseline assessment process has been reviewed and some amendments have been made to better reflect the needs of the subject. On-going assessment procedures have been improved to give a more accurate reflection of current performance in the subject as a whole.
English	No alterations to the Step Grid, but significant amendment to the baseline assessment and interpretation process. This has meant that there has had to be some realignment of attainment measured in a number of cases, but the assessment procedure is now a more accurate reflection of current performance across all Strands.
Food Technology*	Developments within the subject at GCSE as well as KS3 have meant that this Step Grid has had to undergo significant reworking. It is now much more comprehensive and detailed. As such, it provides a far more accurate picture of current performance. Baseline assessment procedures have been reviewed and amended in line with the new Step Grid, but there has been no need for any major realignment of measured attainment for most pupils.
Geography	Review and further development is planned for next year.
History*	Significant review and amendment of the Step Grid, including structure/name and focus of Strands, as well as content and weighting of each element of the course. The processes, tests and information used to formulate the baseline have all been significantly amended to give a more accurate reflection of current performance and progress during the course of the year.
IT (Computing)	Minor amendments to the Step Grid, but considerable development of the baseline testing and setting process to give a more accurate initial picture of knowledge.
MFL	Minor alterations to the Step Grid, but major development of the baseline setting process including testing arrangements and procedures.
Music*	There has been significant development work on both the content / structure of the Step Grid as well as the system for recording attainment and progress during the course of each year. Some minor amendments have been made to the baseline testing procedures.
Physical Education	Minor adjustments to the wording of the Step Grid and the method for recording attainment.
Religious Studies	Minor adjustments to the wording of the Step Grid and some review of the process and system for setting the baseline.
Science * (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)	<p>There has been significant revision of the Step Grids in order to allow better tracking of progress across the whole key stage. The Step descriptors have been rewritten to reflect changes to the scheme of work and to better match each subject's assessment timetable. The grids have also been simplified by reducing the number of Strands in each subject. There are now only five Strands in line with many other subjects.</p> <p>In order to incorporate the previous Step assessments into the new descriptors we have had to revise some pupils' progress scores this time around, but these adjustments will not affect the overall progress a pupil has made by the end of KS3. Each of the Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) still has its own grid of Step descriptors reflecting the content of each subject's scheme of work, but the last Strand (now Strand 5 - Working Scientifically) is common to all Science subjects.</p> <p>These changes will simplify the process of monitoring pupil progress to allow more effective tracking.</p>

* Indicates that there have been significant changes to Step Grids.