



Introduction to STEPS

For the last six years Darrick Wood School has been at the forefront of developing a new Key Stage 3 Assessment and Progress Monitoring system entitled “STEPS – Strategic Targets for Educational Progress and Success”.

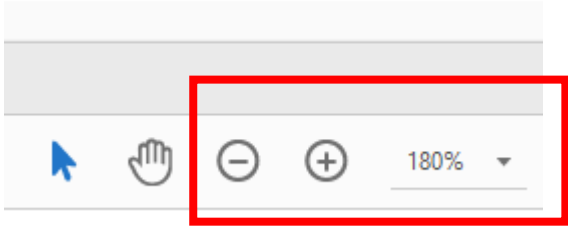
With the removal of the National Curriculum Levels in September 2014, it meant that all schools had to establish a new system for assessing progress in Key Stage 3 and ensure a robust and rigorous programme of monitoring and reporting. Over recent years it became obvious that this mammoth task was proving challenging for many schools and Darrick Wood were increasingly invited to share their approach by speaking about the process we undertook at regional and national conferences on assessment. As a result Darrick Wood are now considered by many to be at the cutting edge of Key Stage 3 Assessment and Progress system design nationally, and as a consequence have worked closely with the international publishing house, Scholastic, to develop a marketable version of our own system.

This opportunity has meant that many staff at Darrick Wood have had a chance to work intensively with Scholastic and produce a very professional and well received model that is now being taken on board by schools all over the United Kingdom and beyond.

We were very proud when the system received a national accolade: it was named an Education Resources Award Winner for the work the School has done in conjunction with Scholastic in 2018.

FAQs relating to STEPS

Question	Answer
<p>I am still unsure of how it all works. I am referring to how the points work. Per strand there is a score right? What does this mean?</p>	<p>The STEPS system works in conjunction with the handbook which is accessible online at https://darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk/documents/About/STEPS-handbook.pdf</p> <p>Each subject has split their programme of study for Key Stage 3 into a number of STRANDS (or areas). For each STRAND the programme over the three years is split into nine STEPS.</p> <p>For most subjects this year, in the first term each pupil was assessed in each subject in most STRANDS and placed on the STEP grid at a certain STEP. The score for all STEPS in that collection is also given using a simple formula that adds 1.0 to the mean of the STEP scores. We call this the STEP POINT SCORE. It is often a decimal and can be seen immediately after the STRAND scores for each collection.</p> <p>Overall, every pupil is expected to make 1.0 progress in the STEP POINT SCORE over each year. This can of course be achieved in a multitude of ways and allows for the different rates of progress experienced by different children at different times. To set meaningful and detailed targets for future progress you simply have to look to the STEP immediately above the ones currently attained in each STRAND.</p>

	The system therefore gives you detailed information and a very quick decimal score to check at every collection.
How will teachers use this data to help my child?	Just like you, we are very excited to have such detailed information on every pupil. It will help teachers to plan effectively and work with each child in order to personalise their learning over the coming months. Beyond this, subject leaders will be able to set up target groups of pupils upon which to focus attention in the coming year.
Why are the steps scores for the DT subjects all the same?	The carousel system operated by DT in Year 7 means that pupils study all the subjects and those teachers award a joint attainment score. This may change with new developments in the future. The STEP shows the STEP point for your child in DT at this point. Where data is missing, this is because your child hasn't, yet, has lessons in that particular area of DT.
Where can I find an enlarged version of STEP grid? Where can I find detailed summaries of the STEPS for each subject?	<p>Please visit the school website and view the documentation at https://darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk/documents/About/STEPS-handbook.pdf</p> <p>With Adobe Acrobat reader, you can use the zoom button to view certain areas in greater detail. The icon looks like this on a Windows PC:</p>  <p>For further information, please see the STEPS overview at https://darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk/steps.aspx</p>
Is the STEP point where the pupil currently is?	Each STEP point, for each subject, indicates pupil attainment at the end of the autumn term. Students are being continually assessed through Home Learning and a new, updated data sheet will be sent home for each term.
Is the Y7 target for the end of the year?	<p>Yes – the target is for the end of Year 7.</p> <p>Pupils are expected to make one full step of progress overall during an academic year, but this can be an average of progress over the range of strands. For example, Pupil X might get a baseline score of 3,3,2,2,3 for five strands. This results in an overall Step Point score of 3.6 (the mean average). They would then be expected to reach 4.6 by the end of Y7, 5.6 by the end of Y8, and 6.6 by the end of Y9. However, as all children develop and learn at different rates it is worth noting that in each individual year progress might be slightly more or slightly less, and that this is quite natural.</p>
How do the STEP grids give an early indication of GCSE grades?	The STEP score attained by the end of Year 9 is a potential indicator that the child is currently working towards possibly achieving this score as a GCSE grade. However, as all children develop and learn at different rates it is worth noting that in

	each individual year progress might be more, or less, and that this is quite natural.
What time of the year does the data represent?	The data sent so far is based upon baseline assessment during the Autumn term. It does not reflect learning from January 2021 onwards, and this will be reflected in the next data summary report sent.
What does the engagement for learning grade mean?	Represents engagement for learning during Autumn Term (September 2020 – December 2020). Please see the definitions for this on the Data Sheet sent home recently.
Why has it not been possible to assess every strand in Science, but it has been in other practical subjects such as Art?	The curriculum has been restricted by past and current guidance. Each subject, dependent upon class size and practicalities, have been able to engage with varying amounts of practical work.
Why are there grey shaded areas in some subjects?	The flexible nature of this assessment system allows for each subject to assess specific topics (strands) relative to their own programme of study: by their nature, some subjects have more than others and the grey area indicates that there is no score 'missing' from that box.
Why does my child not have any data for History?	Due to a change in assessment, the History data will be available in the next data report. Please contact your child's History teacher for any information on attainment and progress so far.
For some areas, there is a score of 0 – what does it mean?	If the data shows a 0, it is likely that this STEP has not, yet, been assessed and the data will be updated in the next data collection where possible.

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