



# Assessment at BNWPS

## What is assessment?

Assessment is a way for teachers to collect data to see how students are going in a particular subject. Assessment can happen at the **start** of a topic to show the teacher how much a student knows already, it can be a **mid-point** assessment to see where students are at and where to next and it can be at the **end** of a topic to see how much students have learnt and what needs to be re-covered.

## What type of assessment do BNW do?

At BNW, we do both formative assessment and summative assessments.

Formative assessment includes things like: observations of student's work, a quiz, an exit ticket at the end of a lesson, feedback to students, teacher judgement and discussions with students. Formative assessments help us to see where students are at at that moment, and where we need to go next. Formative assessment often happens during almost every lesson!

Summative assessments usually happen when a topic has finished. These are your more formal tests (or exams). This gives us an overall picture of what students have understood during the whole topic.

## Why is assessment important?

Assessment is important because it gives teachers a better understanding of what students have learnt during a lesson or over a few weeks. It allows us to tailor our teaching to fill in any gaps students have. It helps us to know if we need

to run small groups or provide additional support to students who may not be understanding the concept we are learning about. It can also help us to see if a student already has this information or has already learnt about this topic. If this is the case, we can then target our teaching to teach them the next steps and challenge them.

Assessment is also important at the end of the year when students transition to their next year. This data gets passed onto the students next teacher and gives them a great picture of their new students as learners and where they need additional support or more of a challenge.

## **Assessment during Remote Learning**

Even though we are Remote, teachers are still assessing student's learning. This is important because it influences our reading and maths groups that most teachers are running during Remote Learning. It also informs us of what we need to teach in the following weeks or what we need to come back to.

Assessment during Remote Learning isn't as smooth as it is in the classroom (but nothing is as smooth as it would be in the classroom!) but there are a variety of ways teachers are assessing during Remote Learning. They include: feedback to students, small targeted student groups, Essential Assessment, open ended tasks, exit tickets, Google Forms and many more!

It is really important to continue to track students progress even during these challenging times so we can make adaptations when needed.

## **What can I do to help when my child is doing an assessment piece?**

When we are assessing during Remote Learning, it is important that we get a true reflection of a student's progress. It is important that we know where they may be struggling or where they are excelling so we can make sure we are teaching to that.

As a parent, it would be hard to sit and watch your child in the zone of confusion but this is really important for them as a learner. It's important that students feel that confusion or have that struggle so they will learn that they can get past that. This will build their resilience. It is also important that students learn that sometimes they need help with something and that is perfectly okay! Everyone in life will struggle and everyone will need support with something they may not understand. You may be tempted to rescue them, and teachers are guilty of that too, but it is important to allow students to find something hard, and for parents (and teachers) to not jump in and help them. By allowing students to show where

they need extra help, this means that the teacher is able to provide strategies and supports to help students better understand a concept.

## So...what can I do to help?!

If your child's teacher has informed you that a certain task is an assessment, there are some things you can do to help your child if they are struggling whilst still letting them show their teacher what they are capable of. These are things you can do during all learning tasks, not just assessment!

- ★ Suggest that they get some concrete materials. You'd be amazed at how much having some hands on materials can help!
- ★ Giving them thinking time can help. It is natural for you to want to jump in and fill in the gaps, but thinking time is really important. This is just your child processing information.
- ★ Ask them to read the question out loud. Sometimes saying the words can help you understand what is being asked of you. Then, ask them to tell you what to do in their own words. This can help clarify any misunderstandings.
- ★ If your child asks for help, instead of immediately giving them the answer, ask them what they are thinking. This may make them frustrated but that's okay! Try and get them to articulate their thinking as best they can. Sometimes just talking out loud can get their thoughts ticking away.
- ★ Asking them how they are going to start the task can help to see their thinking and understanding. This is a question we often ask students before they start because it helps them to start thinking about what they need to do.
- ★ Ask them to grab a piece of paper to write down their thoughts. Sometimes giving them a piece of paper to write down their ideas away from their initial work can help because it allows them to feel like they can make mistakes and it isn't permanent on the final work piece.
- ★ If you can see they are getting stuck and are unable to continue working, suggest that they take a break. Suggest they go outside for 10 minutes away from their work, have a snack to restart their thinking or play a game.
- ★ If you can see your child is struggling, instead of telling them the answer, talk about how it is normal to feel unsure about something. At school, we

talk about the learning pit and that feeling uncomfortable or frustrated is normal and part of learning! It's important for your child to feel these feelings even if they are unpleasant and it's also important that an adult doesn't always jump in to save them. Having a visual of the learning pit to help your child explain their feelings can help!

- ★ Setting a timer during an assessment task can help. Setting a timer for 10 minutes can help show your child that after 10 minutes, they can have a 5 minute break and then continue on with the task after their break. Breaking a task down into 10 minute chunks can help make the task not feel like it's going to go on forever!
- ★ It's okay if your child needs to leave a question blank. Leaving a question blank can give just as much information as if a child was able to answer because it shows that your child needs support with that concept.

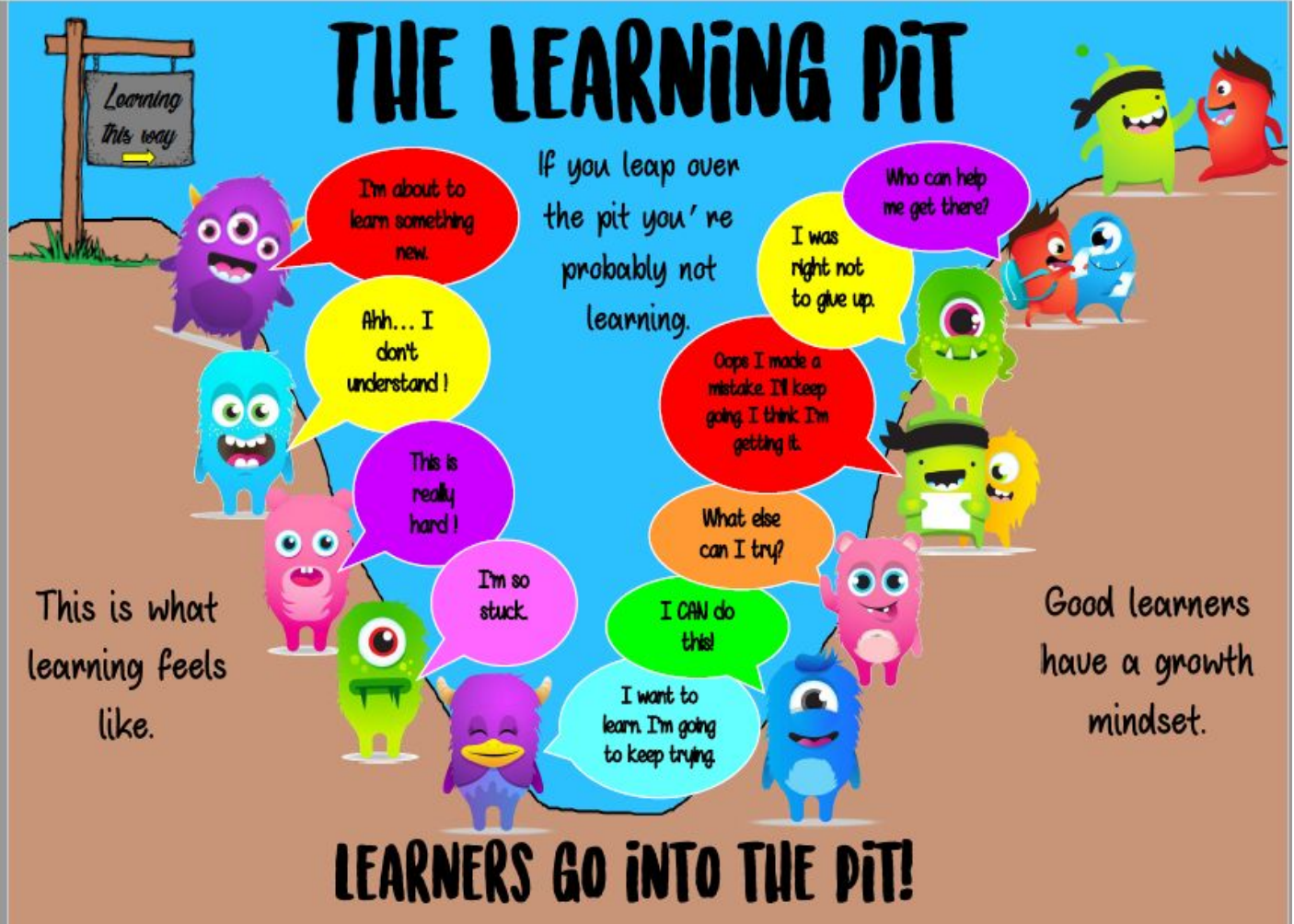
For more information see these additional resources:

[Department of Education- Assessment](#)

[Essential Assessment](#)

[Purpose of assessment](#)

Below is a Learning Pit poster that you could print out and refer to if your child is feeling stuck. Remember, that stuck feeling is them learning something new!



# THE LEARNING PIT

If you leap over the pit you're probably not learning.

This is what learning feels like.

Good learners have a growth mindset.

## LEARNERS GO INTO THE PIT!

I'm about to learn something new.

Ahh... I don't understand!

This is really hard!

I'm so stuck.

I CAN do this!

I want to learn. I'm going to keep trying.

I was right not to give up.

Oops I made a mistake. I'll keep going. I think I'm getting it.

What else can I try?

Who can help me get there?

