



# Dore Primary School

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Dear Parents and carers,

With two big changes to teaching this year being introduced by the government, we felt it important to notify you of how Dore Primary School is introducing these changes.

I'm sure that you are aware that across the country we have been detailed with a new curriculum to teach our children. This presents an exciting opportunity for us as teachers to plan, teach and deliver new topics that will excite and engage your children. Over the year you will hear your children talking about working on topics that have not previously been taught at Dore. It also presents challenge, as the new curriculum is more demanding and children will be required to work at a higher standard in each of the year groups particularly in Maths and English. We expect age related expectations to take a good time to settle into a normal pattern as the new curriculum requirements are introduced.

Alongside the development of the new curriculum there was also another big change that commenced in September 2014 and that was the introduction of 'Assessment without Levels'. From September 2014 the only children who will continue to be assessed for this academic year using the National Curriculum Levels (2B, 4C etc.) will be the children who are currently in Year 2 and Year 6. From September 2015 all National Curriculum Levels will cease to be used.

Schools are now required to use their own tracking and assessment procedures, which mean that each school will have a different way of ensuring that the pupils are making progress and that they have achieved the standard to which they are capable.

At Dore Primary School we are developing a robust and thorough method of assessment. Following training we have selected a procedure developed by an educational specialist 'Chris Quigley'. Therefore you will soon hear your children talking about which Milestone they are working on.

## How do the Milestones map out progress?

Milestone 1 is the expectation at the end of Year 2.

Milestone 2 is the expectation at the end of Year 4.

Milestone 3 is the expectation at the end of Year 6.





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## How is the progress broken down for years 1,3 & 5?

Within each year the children will be working towards elements of that Milestone. Each Milestone has been broken down into a Basic understanding, an Advancing understanding and a Deep understanding. Therefore we would say that a child was working at 'Milestone 1 with a basic understanding' or 'Milestone 2 with an advanced understanding' for example.

As this year progresses all staff will grow more confident with assessing children in this way. As we learn more about this assessment tool we will keep you up to date.

Another new aspect to our curriculum is the Launch of the NEW SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) scheme of work. Dore Primary School has been a key partner in writing this new scheme of work with colleagues in the city and the LA. The new syllabus is called 'Enquiring Minds and Open Hearts'. It has a more diverse approach to the study of RE both in content and in suggested methods of teaching and acquisition of skills. We very much appreciate working in this enquiry mode as it very much fits our Philosophy 4 Children and Values Education ethos.

So a year of MAJOR change and great opportunity to mould much of what we do into our Thinking School and TEAM Dore approach where we have very high expectations of our pupils' personal responsibility in their own learning and as members of the school community.

Warm regards

Sue Hopkinson

Headteacher

Sarah Drazek

Assistant Headteacher and Assessment Leader

