

New Functional ICT P scale assessment

Rationale

The new ICT expanded p scale has been written to promote the use of functional technology to enable pupils' independence in their everyday lives. The expanded p scale has been sub-divided into the three areas of Communication and Information Skills, Independent Living and Leisure, which reflects the areas where pupils' can use technology in a functional way to support their learning in school and in their future lives.

The focus of the p level statements within each area is to assess a pupil's skills using technological equipment in a functional way rather than being able to use a specific piece of equipment, for example use a device to take random photos. The same skill where possible can be assessed in more than one area as the technological equipment used is likely to be different in the different contexts.

As technology advances so quickly, the p scales have been designed with clearly identified spaces that say 'please specify or give 3 examples' to write in which technological equipment/device has been functionally used rather than specifying any specific equipment. At the bottom of each p scale there is a list of optional resources in each of the three areas that could be used by pupils to functionally demonstrate the skills in the statements.

As a pupil progresses through the p scales there are also planned opportunities to demonstrate using the same functional skill in a range of different contexts. For example in Level 1C: scans items at a self-service checkout, places items in the bag, presses finish and pay, on screen, uses coins or notes and takes receipt, give 3 examples of shops used.

The level descriptors for levels p1i-p8 are the most up-to-date ones provided by DFE (July 2014) Computing, (which are identical to the previous ICT ones) however the examples that were provided in italics contained obsolete equipment, so these have been changed to link to the new expanded p scale.

The level descriptors for levels 1C- 2A have been written to summarise the content of the new expanded p scale and do not link to the new Computing national curriculum levels or content which has replace the previous ICT ones.