

THE NEW ASSESSMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Academic year 2020/21

What is the assessment?

The assessment is a very important part of schooling. It is used to:

- give value to what the children learn;
- help children improve;
- help achieve good results and develop in the best possible ways.

From this academic year 2020/21, the assessment of primary school children (between 6 and 11 years of age) will no longer be described in numbers, but based on four learning levels.

Why change the assessment?

The new law says that the assessment must no longer be expressed in marks, i.e. a number, but describe the abilities of the children, what they have learnt to do and know, the improvements they have made and the goals reached. It describes a path, not an end point.

What is written in the new assessment document?

- The subjects studied, namely Italian, history, geography, maths_
- The learning goals: the topics and the important things that the children have to learn (E.g. a child attending 1st class must know how to organise the graphic space in the page, recognise and write words in capital print type letters, etc...)
- The learning level: how much and how the children have learnt the topics.

- The descriptive judgement: the description of the knowledge and the learning of the children that replaces the mark (number).
- The assessment of the teacher of Catholic Religion or alternative subjects: this is inserted in another sheet and remains the same as the previous years. The teachers give a judgement on the interest and the results of the student through the following levels: Excellent, Very good, Good, Fair, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory.
- The overall judgement and the assessment of the behaviour expressed as in the past with a detailed explanation.

The learning levels are:

- Advanced
- Intermediate
- Basic
- On the way to acquiring first notions

How are the levels defined?

The children's learning levels are defined by the type of situation. A few examples are:

- if the child does homework related to topics he already knows or they are new
- by the resources the child uses
- by the independence in doing the homework, namely if the child needs the help of the teacher to do the homework
- if he always completes the homework, namely if he is consistent

- Advanced

The child is able to do the homework given by the teacher always alone, even if there are new topics, using many resources

- Intermediate
- The child is able to do the homework given by the teacher alone if he already knows the topics.

He needs the help of the teacher if he does not know the topics

- Basic

The child is able to do the homework given by the teacher only if he already knows the topics and using files prepared by the teacher. At times, he is able to do the homework alone; at times, he needs the help of the teacher.

- On the way to acquiring first notions
- The child is able to do the homework given by the teacher only if he already knows the topics and if he has received help from the teacher, for example simplified files.

The learning levels for special needs children are not modified but related to the Personalised Educational Plan prepared by the teachers. The descriptive judgement highlights the progress made with respect to the initial situation.

For children with Specific learning disorders with a personalised plan the learning levels are not modified. The goals are those of the class, but the teachers are very careful about the times, methods and tools used.

Summarising

The assessment file:

- **No longer contains numerical marks**
- **Contains important progress and improvements made by the children**
- **Uses the four learning levels**
- **Can contain more assessments for each subject**
- **Has an overall judgement and a behavioural judgement which describe the children**