

## **Reports FAQ**

### **What is this report showing me?**

*Our reports provide attainment grade matched against attainment estimates and effort grades for each subject. Additionally, we include an effort score matched against the highest in the class, percentage attendance, number of lates, achievement points and behaviour points. One report each year will also include a comment from the pupil's form tutor.*

### **How is a pupil's attainment estimate worked out?**

*Estimates are based upon the prior attainment, in English and maths, alongside GCSE outcomes of the top 20% of pupils nationally. We match what pupils with a similar Key Stage 2 result have achieved in the past and use this to estimate what each pupil could achieve.*

*These estimates also take into account other factors that may impact upon a pupil's progress such as attendance, school changes and individually identified learning needs which is why pupils with the same prior attainment can have different estimates.*

### **Why aren't pupils given a target grade?**

*Whilst estimates are quite accurate for English and maths they can be less so for other subjects, particularly those that a pupil may not have studied before. In addition, estimates are revised each year in the light of each new set of national GCSE results.*

*Our experience also tells us that target grades often act as a 'glass ceiling' to attainment. Once a grade has been reached, effort can drop, resulting in a reduction in attainment the next term.*

*Instead, we provide written and verbal targets that give the pupils specific actions to carry out to help improve further.*

### **Why has a grade gone red this time when it was white before?**

*At Hall Mead we operate what is called a 'flight path' for each pupil. This is the trajectory from their starting point to their end of year estimate. As we go through the academic year we expect pupils to get closer to that estimate. Therefore a pupil who stays on the same grade could see this go from one colour to another.*

### **Why is there more red on my child's report?**

*It could be the case that a pupil is really not working well at school and not progressing but it is rarely that straightforward. There are many factors that affect attainment and progress including the topics being studied at a particular time, a pupil's like/dislike of a subject, talent in a particular area, quality of teaching, social/personal issues, etc.*

*Estimates are based on the English and maths assessments pupils did in Year 6. These are not always accurate for estimating performance across the wider range of subjects. If a pupil did well in English or maths this would lead to higher estimates in other subjects. If the pupil then did less well in those subjects they would be further away from their estimate than we would expect at a particular point in the year causing the grade to go red. This does not mean a pupil is failing in that subject. It tells you that their current assessment falls below where we would expect them to be and therefore, they are possibly capable of doing better in the future.*

### **Why is there more green on my child's report?**

*It could be the case that a pupil has worked really hard and exceeded expectation although there are many factors that affect attainment and progress including the topics being studied at a particular time, a pupil's like/dislike of a subject, talent in a particular area, quality of teaching, social/personal issues, etc.*

*Estimates are based on the English and maths assessments pupils did in Year 6. These are not always accurate for estimating performance across the wider range of subjects. If a pupil did not score as well in English or maths this*

would lead to lower estimates in other subjects. If the pupil then did well in those subjects they would be exceeding their estimate and showing as green on the report.

### What does the grade actually mean?

Pupils are graded on a 1 to 9 scale with 9 being the highest. This mirrors the grading used at GCSE but does not mean a child who gets a grade 6 in Year 7 is going to get a grade 6 at GCSE. Our internal grading is matched against the schemes of work and based on current assessments. Parents should think of grades as follows:

<b>9</b>	<i>The highest grade. Tougher than the old A* with only 2-3% of pupils nationally achieving this grade.</i>
<b>7</b>	<i>A high grade. It represents strong performance in a subject. It is at the same level nationally as the old A grade.</i>
<b>5</b>	<i>This is roughly the average grade at Hall Mead and at GCSE nationally. At GCSE it is considered to be a 'strong' pass</i>
<b>4</b>	<i>A pass grade at GCSE. Pupils attaining this grade are developing a solid foundation in a subject.</i>
<b>1</b>	<i>The lowest grade in the range, suggesting a pupil is finding it really difficult to learn and make progress in a subject.</i>

### Can the attainment estimate change as a pupil goes through the school?

Yes! As well as responding to changes that are based on each additional set of GCSE results, estimates can be changed for each pupil based upon how well they have done in a particular subject. Each subject has its own estimate enabling us to tailor each subject estimate to each pupil.

### What are achievement points?

Achievement points are used to recognise when a pupil has done something good. This could include academic achievement, putting in more effort, participating fully in class or extra-curricular activities and helping others.

### What are behaviour points?

On the occasions where a teacher has to issue a sanction to a pupil this is recorded as a behaviour point. This can be for a wide range of reasons including not completing class/homework, distracting others and demonstrating behaviour that falls below our expected conduct.

### What is good attendance?

<b>Above 98%</b> <b>Excellent attendance</b>	<i>These pupils have had less than 4 days absence in a year</i>
<b>95%</b> <b>Average attendance</b>	<i>These pupils have had less than 9 days absence in a year</i>
<b>92%</b> <b>Low attendance</b>	<i>These pupils can be missing as much as 4 weeks of school per year. It will be difficult for them to maintain workloads and their attainment could drop by one grade.</i>
<b>Below 90%</b> <b>Persistent Absence</b>	<i>Pupils below 90% are deemed to be persistently absent. They can be referred to the Local Authority and parents may face some form of sanction.</i>