

Park Lane School Assessment information for families

**The Engagement Model**

The engagement model is a teacher assessment tool to help schools support pupils who are working below the level of the national curriculum and not engaged in subject-specific study.

The engagement model is formed of 5 areas of engagement:

• exploration

• realisation

• anticipation

• persistence

• initiation

The engagement model will help to improve the school’s understanding of how well your child is engaging in the development of new skills, knowledge and concepts in the school’s curriculum. It will help to understand their achievements and progress in their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. It is important that your child can show progress, regardless of any additional needs they may have. This will enable the school to better support your child.

Why do schools need to assess my child? Before September 2021, your child may have been assessed using P scales . However, an independent review found that P scales were no longer the most useful way to assess pupils with SEND. The review panel found that P scales were designed on the basis that pupils would move in a linear way from one skill or concept to a more challenging or advanced skill or concept. Linear progress is not common for pupils with severe or profound learning difficulties.

The engagement model:

• enables a flexible and individualised assessment, allowing your child’s teacher to tailor their teaching and provision to meet their specific needs

• recognises that engagement is multi-dimensional and breaks it down into the 5 areas of engagement

• supports identification of all progress made by your child and will not be limited to the linear progress that was tracked by P scales

School will decide how they implement the assessment to provide a flexible, holistic assessment of pupils. We are required to report achievements and progress to you in end of year academic reports, and in some cases will report to parents more regularly.

1. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/p-scales-attainment-targets-for-pupils-with-sen](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/p-scales-attainment-targets-for-pupils-with-sen)

2. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/rochford-review-fnal-report](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rochford-review-fnal-report)

What information will I receive? There is no requirement for schools to report on the use of the engagement model, however, schools must report which pupils are assessed, using the engagement model, to the Department for Education (DfE). This is so DfE knows how many pupils are not engaged in subject-specific study and where they are being educated. There is no score for the assessment. Schools do not have to submit data about your child’s achievements and progress. This is because the progress that your child makes will be personal to them, and it is not possible to compare data with other pupils being assessed in the same way. Your child’s teacher will be able to answer any questions you may have about the engagement model. You will receive Learning Journals outlining your child’s achievements throughout the school which will comment on the achievements within the Engagement Model linked to the Non-Subject Specific curriculum that forms the basis of your child’s day-to-day lessons. You will also receive a review of their work towards personal targets set in their EHCP review annually.

This information has been taken directly from the DfE website and personalised to fit the assessment and use of the Engagement Model at Park Lane Special school

For more details, you can also visit [www.gov.uk/STA](http://www.gov.uk/STA)

Katy Wadsworth

December 2024