What Are PiXL Assessments?

A friendly guide for our families

At school, we want every child to feel successful and make progress in their learning. To help us understand how children are getting on and identify where they might need a little extra support, we use assessments called PiXL Assessments (Partners in Excellence).

So, what are PiXL Assessments?

PiXL Assessments are tools that help teachers understand what a child knows, what they can do and where there may be gaps in their learning. They look at different areas of the curriculum, including reading, writing and maths.

The assessments help us identify areas where a child may be finding learning difficult or not making the progress we would expect. They can also help us recognise patterns of difficulty that might suggest a child has additional learning needs.

PiXL Assessments are not a test for SEND or a way of diagnosing a special educational need. Instead, they are one part of the information we use to build a clearer picture of how a child learns and what support they may need.

How do they work?

- Children complete age-appropriate assessments to help teachers understand their current knowledge and understanding.
- Teachers look at the results alongside everyday classroom observations, classwork and other assessment information.
- We identify areas of strength, as well as any gaps or difficulties that may be affecting a child's progress.
- Where concerns are identified, we may carry out further assessments or provide additional support to help us understand the child's needs.
- The information is used to plan targeted teaching, interventions and personalised support.

How can PiXL Assessments help us identify SEND?

PiXL Assessments can help us to:

- Identify children who may be experiencing ongoing difficulties with aspects of their learning.
- Recognise patterns of difficulty in areas such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and maths.
- Highlight gaps in learning that may need further investigation.
- Monitor progress and identify children who are not making the expected progress despite receiving additional support.
- Help teachers and our SENDCo decide whether further assessment or investigation may be needed.

It is important to remember that a low assessment score does not automatically mean a child has SEND. We always consider assessment results alongside a child's individual circumstances, progress over time, classroom experiences and views from parents and staff.

Why do we use PiXL Assessments?

Because they help us:

- Understand what a child can do and where they may need support.
- Identify gaps in learning at an early stage.
- Plan appropriate teaching and targeted interventions.
- Monitor progress and celebrate achievements.
- Build a clearer picture of a child's individual learning needs.
- Support decisions about whether further SEND assessment or advice may be helpful.

PiXL Assessments help us look beyond a score and understand the individual child. By combining assessment information with what we see in the classroom and what families tell us, we can work together to identify barriers to learning and make sure every child gets the support they need to succeed.