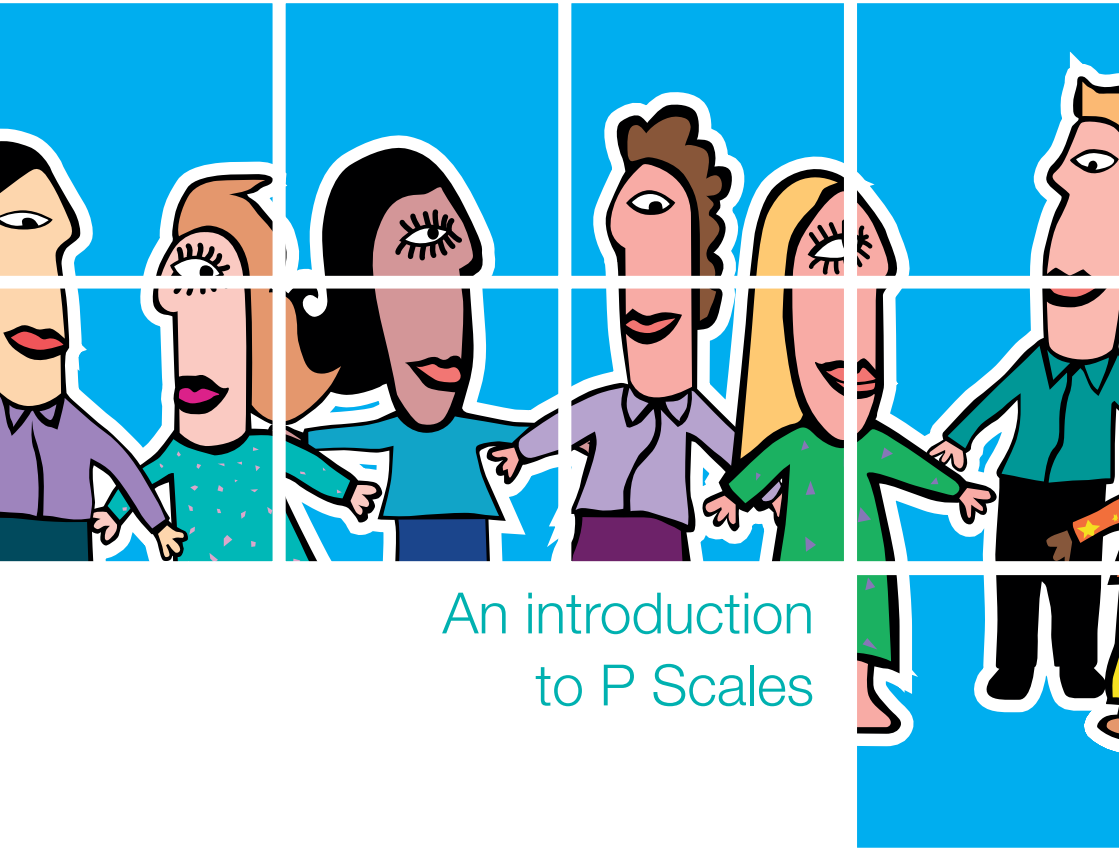


Parent Partnership Barnet



An introduction
to P Scales

Supporting parents of children
with special educational needs

An introduction to P Scales



P Scales are a set of descriptors for recording the achievement of children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in schools who are working towards the first “level” of the National Curriculum (NC), Level 1.

The P Scales are split into 8 different levels.

Level P1 is the lowest and level P8 the highest.

Level P8 leads on to National Curriculum Level 1.

Levels P1 - P3 describe early learning and the development of understanding and are not specifically related to any National Curriculum subject.

Prior to the introduction of P Scales, any children or young people not achieving Level 1 in their English, Maths and Science would have been recorded with a “W”, meaning “working towards Level 1.” There was no means of formally recording their achievements.

The P Scales allow for the progress of children with SEN, learning difficulties and disabilities, to be recognised and recorded in a formal way. Teachers can use them to measure linear progress towards NC Level 1 and to compare progress within P Scales across subjects.

The P Level Attainment Targets provide a framework to plan and support learning.

Benefits for Inclusion

P Scales have many benefits for the inclusion of children and young people with SEN in mainstream education.

Used properly and consistently by teachers, they:

- strengthen the curriculum, providing learning opportunities for all
- provide a baseline for measuring and celebrating children's progress, in both mainstream and special schools
- provide parents with a detailed measure of their children's progress
- provide a shared focus and common language for talking about pupil progress throughout and between schools, and between home and school
- strengthen teachers' assessment expertise and increase their confidence in identifying achievement and in planning new P Level and NC targets for their pupils.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Many people believe the P Scales were written for the Early Years Foundation Stage which is not the case. They were actually written to describe the progress towards Level 1 of the National Curriculum of children with SEN and learning difficulties and disabilities of National Curriculum age, (5 years or Year 1).

The Early Learning Goals of the Early Years Foundation Stage apply to children under National Curriculum age (nursery and reception) and are not "hierarchical", in the sense that they do not always describe progression in learning and development.

Further Information

Your child's teacher and /or the Special Needs coordinator (SENCO) in your school can give you more detailed information about your child's progress in relation to P Scales and the National Curriculum.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) website also publishes further guidance at www.dcsf.gov.uk

If you need any further advice or support please
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