

# St. Monica School, B'Kara

## Assessment Policy (2018-2020)

In keeping with the principles laid down in the National Minimum Curriculum which emphasize the importance of FORMATIVE assessment rather than exclusively focusing on SUMMATIVE assessment (which may be loosely said to consist of tests and examinations which just offer the feedback of a mark), we as a staff are encouraged to keep to the following Principles to guide our classroom practice. Educators at St. Monica are presently going through the process of training on Assessment for Learning. The 7 strategies will be implemented in a staggered manner to ensure consolidation in one strategy before progressing to the next.

- Assessment for Learning does not merely judge; it shows learners where they are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there
- Assessment for Learning should recognise all educational achievement in different areas – written, oral, practical, etc.
- Assessment for Learning should enable all learners to achieve their best and have all their efforts recognised
- Assessment for Learning should give students constructive guidance how to improve
- Assessment for Learning should foster learner motivation
- Assessment for Learning should be sensitive and constructive because any assessment has an emotional impact

Every “correction in class”, every comment we make, verbally or in writing, about students’ work is a form of assessment. Our assessment/feedback must always be geared towards teaching students how to learn and not to judge and condemn or to give praise for its own sake.

With the onset of the Learning Outcomes Framework implementation, a New Assessment System is being devised for the duration of two years.

### Primary classes

From Grade 1 to Grade 2 reporting will remain as in previous years (March Assessment and May Assessment).

**In Grade 3**, Learning Outcomes will come into effect and continuous assessment will be reported in December, March and June. Please make sure that your pupils reports are a result of varied forms of assessment which were carried out in a continuous manner during the 3 terms.

From **Grade 4 to Grade 6**, no report will be published in November/December. In preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> Parents Day, Grade 5 and 6 teachers are encouraged however to give feedback to the respective class teachers in the case of subject teaching.

Students will sit for Half Yearly Exams in Maths, English and Maltese and a mark will be issued based entirely on the exam. As in previous years, all pupils are to be assessed continuously through homework, schoolwork and through various activities throughout the year. No report will be issued in May.

**In Grades 4 & 5** Students will sit for exams in Maths, Maltese, English, Science, Social Studies and Religion in June. The global mark of each subject will be made up as follows: 60% Final exam and 40% continuous assessment. The 40% assessment mark will consist of 15 marks which will be collected during the first Term, another 15 marks collected during the second Term (the total of these two will be the mark out of a maximum of 30 included in the March Report) and 10 marks collected during the third Term.

At the end of **Grade 6** the students will sit for the End of Primary Benchmark Exam in Maths, Maltese and English. The mark obtained in these exams will be the Final mark reported for these subjects. Students will sit for exams in Science, Social Studies and Religion in June. The global mark of each subject will be made up as follows: 60% Final exam and 40% continuous assessment. The 40% assessment mark will consist of 15 marks which will be collected during the first Term, another 15 marks collected during the second Term (the total of these two will be the mark out of a maximum of 30 included in the March Report) and 10 marks collected during the third Term.

## **Secondary Classes**

Students in **Form 1** will start following the new syllabi in 2018-9. The new MATSEC assessment procedures will commence as from 2020-2021 when this year's Form 1s will be in Form 3. Therefore Form 1 students will not have any Half Yearly Exams, but they will be assessed through a set number of tasks which will add up to a percentage of the final mark. 3 continuous assessment reports will be issued: one in December, one in March and another one in June. The latter will include the annual exam marks. Each of the 3 reports will be on a different set of Learning Outcomes and will include a mark for the assessment tasks assigned up to that date. In June, all students will sit for all their annual exams. The annual exams will carry a percentage of the global mark, the other percentage will be from the continuous assessment. Which tasks will be assessed for reporting

purposes, the number and nature of tasks and the % weighting which the continuous assessment will contribute towards the Global mark, will be decided by subject teacher/department.

**Form 2** students will retain the old syllabus in 2018-9 but adopt the same assessment system as Form 1 except that no school-based assessment mark will be issued in the December feedback.

**Form 3 to Form 5** students will sit for both Half Yearly and Annual Exams. In 2018-9, Reports will be issued after Half Yearly Exams and after Annual Exams, for Forms 3 and 4, and after Mock Final exams for Form 5.

**To summarize:**

<b>Scholastic Year 2018-9</b>			
<b>Assessment session</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>June</b>
Form 1	LO report (on LOs)	LO report (on LOs – different from Dec Report)	LO report (on LOs – different from Dec & March Report) Exam – 60% CA – 40%, or otherwise, % weighting varies according to subject
	Continuous assessment marks are gathered and a mark issued		
Form 2	Criterion-based assessment report	Criterion-based assessment report	Exam – 60% CA – 40%, or otherwise, % weighting varies according to subject
	Continuous assessment marks are gathered	Continuous assessment marks are gathered and a mark issued	
Form 3 & 4	Feedback report	Half Yearly Exam. Mark to possibly include Coursework where applicable	Annual Exam. Mark to include Coursework where applicable.
Form 5	Feedback report	(April) Mock Final Exam to include Coursework where applicable	

The Learning Outcome assessment system will be carried up to Form 2 during the following scholastic year, thus:

<b>Scholastic Year 2019-20</b>			
<b>Assessment session</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>June</b>
Form 1	LO report (on LOs)	LO report (onLOs – different from Dec Report)	LO report (on LOs – different from Dec & March Report) Exam – 60% CA – 40%, or otherwise, % weighting varies according to subject
	Continuous assessment marks are gathered and a mark issued		
Form 2	LO report (on LOs)	LO report (onLOs – different from Dec Report)	LO report (on LOs – different from Dec & March Report) Exam – 60% CA – 40%, or otherwise, % weighting varies according to subject
	Continuous assessment marks are gathered and a mark issued		
Form 3 & 4	Feedback report	Half Yearly Exam. Mark to possibly include Coursework where applicable	Annual Exam. Mark to include Coursework where applicable.
Form 5	Feedback report	(April) Mock Final Exam to include Coursework where applicable	

The Assessment policy shall be reviewed in two years' time when the New Matsec syllabi are planned to be implemented.