

Glossary

Assessment for Learning (AfL)

Various models of formative and summative assessment are used in schools. The Making Good Progress pilot used a particular model of Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) backed up by Single Level Tests which were designed to test children when ready.

Everyday Lifelong Learning Inventory (ELLI)

A learning tool which came out of research at Bristol University. This aims to aid children's learning by assigning learning characteristics to different animals. For example, the tortoise represents 'resilience.'

Making Good Progress (MGP)

This national pilot considered different ways of assessing children's progress and also introduced Single Level Tests. The aim was to arrive at an alternative to the current SATs and to develop a process that was used in both primary and secondary schools. The pilot ended in 2010.

Ofsted Inspection

An Ofsted inspection is a statutory inspection that every school can expect to take place once every three years or thereabouts in the normal run of events. On the strength of a two or three day inspection by one or more inspectors – duration and number of inspectors determined according to the size and perceived success of the school in question – a school is judged to be outstanding, good, satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If found to be unsatisfactory, a school may be served with a ‘Notice to Improve’ or put into ‘Special Measures’. Each of these results in a prolonged series of inspections. At worst, if the school concerned does not make the required improvement it could be forced to close. The school in the study was inspected in July 2006 after a gap of almost six years and then again almost exactly three years later. On each occasion the inspection was carried out by one inspector over two days and an inspection report produced at its conclusion.

School Improvement Partner (SIP)

Individual assigned to each school to provide support and challenge to headteacher and governors. SIPs had to undertake national training and be accredited.

Standard Attainment Tests (SATs)

National tests administered to children at ages 7 and 11 years. Previously also given to children at age 14. Currently under review (see Making Good Progress pilot and Bew report).

SWOT analysis

An analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Often used as an evaluation tool.