



Grade Collection: A Guide for Parents and Carers

What is grade collection for?

Grade collection is a way in which the school can keep track of your child's progress. It happens on four occasions during the school year and is intended to celebrate your child's attainment and consistent levels of effort across the year. You will regularly receive a copy of the grade collection data; it will show the effort grade and the progress your child is currently making against their targets.

At the first grade collection, all pupils and students will receive an 'Effort Only Grade'. The purpose of this is to provide you with an initial 'snap-shot' as to how your daughter or son has performed in the first few weeks of the school year. This will then form the basis of a discussion with your child's Form Tutor at the first Parents Evening of the year, held in October. The specific date of this event will be provided each year.

Each of the other three grade collections is distributed across the school year. Examples of the information that you will receive are shown at the bottom of this information guide.

At one of the Grade Collections you will also receive a Pastoral report which includes comments from your child's Form Tutor, Achievement Leader, your child themselves and the Headteacher. The timing of this report will vary for each year group.

There will also be a Parents' Evening for each of years 7 to 13; you will be notified of when these take place.

Progress and Effort

On the grade collection sheet you will see various grades and codes. The tables below explain what these codes mean.

Effort (Key Stages 3 and 4)/Commitment to Learning (Key Stage 5)

A. Excellent

You have demonstrated an excellent level of effort. You have consistently met or even exceeded expectations in the work you have undertaken to date. We consider you to be working at your 'Personal Best'!

B. Good

On the whole your effort level is good. Usually you are working near to the peak of your potential, although there may be some exception to this. You should be aiming to secure a Grade 1 in the next assessment.

C. Satisfactory

Your effort level is only fair/uneven, on the evidence of the work produced so far. What are your next steps to improve?

D. Poor

The work you have produced to date demonstrates quite a poor level of effort, given what we know you are capable of and given the opportunities that were available to you. You can do better next time? What are your next steps to improve?

E. Unsatisfactory

Your work reveals little or no recognisable effort on your part. It is well below what you are capable of and is unacceptable for a pupil of your ability. We know that you can do much better.

Progress

Key Stage 3:

At each grade collection pupils receive two progress grades:

- A 'personal' grade based on the progress we expect them to make given their results on leaving primary school.
- The second grade measures progress towards the '**national expectation**' for the end of that academic year.

By meeting the '**national expectation**' for the end of each year a pupil will be '**on track**' to meet the '**national expectation**' at GCSE which is grade 5.

The following codes are used during the process:

- ++ means two grades above the expected standard and/or own personal GCSE target.
- + means one grade above the expected standard and/or own personal GCSE target
- 0 means on-track for the expected standard and/or own personal GCSE target
- means one grade below the expected standard and/or own personal GCSE target
- Means two grades below the expected standard and/or own personal GCSE target

Key Stage 4:

For all subjects the estimated grade uses the new 1-9 scale where 1 is the lowest grade and 9 the highest. The national expectation is grade 5 this being approximate to a low grade B on the previous scale. The national expectation of the A* to C scale was grade C. As such there is a heightened level of expectation built into the new reformed GCSE.

Key Stage 5:

If a student's estimated grade is the same as or above their minimum target grade then they are '**on track**' or '**exceeding**' their A-level/BTEC minimum target grade which is calculated from Key Stage 4 GCSE average point scores.

Grading structure for GCSE

As you know the GCSE grading structure has now changed. Please see the table below that makes a comparison between the new and old grading structures.

The table below sets out how the new GCSE grades compare with the old ones.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

5 and above = top of C and above

4 and above = bottom of C and above

(Starting GCSEs, Your guide to exam success. Cambridge University Press Transition Guide, 2015)

Grade collection analyses and follow-up meetings

Your child's Achievement Leader regularly analyses data from grade collections ahead of follow-up meetings with Form Tutors. As a result of these analyses we can quickly identify any changes in effort which, over time, could lead to a drop in attainment and progress.

Predictor data reviews

During years 9 to 13 your child will have regular one to one meetings with a senior member of staff. The results from a grade collection form a really useful basis for discussions of learning between teachers and students. These discussions focus on their current performance and the gap between this and their expected grades. Also engagement in subjects and any other general well-being matters will be discussed.

Rewards for pupils/students

At key Stages 3 and 4 many pupils often receive certificates of commendation for their attainment, effort and progress. In addition, for each year group the five pupils with the highest overall effort receive an additional certificate of commendation to recognise their consistent effort.

At Key Stage 5 students are recommended for nomination as 'student of the month'.

Contact with parents and carers

As said above, you will regularly receive a copy of the grade collection data, it will show the effort grade and the progress your child is currently making.

The grade collection system is an effective way of checking on progress. It provides important feedback for pupils/students and parents or carers. The results from a grade collection form a really useful basis for discussions of learning between teachers and pupils/students, between teachers and parents/carers and between parents/carers and pupils/students. From this, targets for further development can be made. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if you would like more help or advice.

Examples of the grade collection information supplied to parents and carers for key stage 3, key stage 4 and key stage 5 can be found at the back of this document.

Distribution of grade collection information to parents and carers

One copy of the grade collection information will be sent home with your child to their home address. In the event that you require an additional copy to be sent to a parent who lives at a different address please inform school and this will be arranged for you.

Glossary

Key Stage 3

Expected Progress: the progress expected of a pupil towards their personal target grade at the end of each year given their starting point. The starting point being the result of the Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Test (SAT) scores which are taken by pupils in year 6.

National Expectation: the national expectation at GCSE is grade 5.

On track: making expected progress to meet target grade or the national expectation.

Exceeding: exceeding the expected progress, could potentially achieve a higher grade than the personal target grade or national expectation.

Effort Grades: these are given by staff to reflect overall effort in lessons and homework. This is on an A to E scale as shown in the box above.

Attendance: rate of attendance since September.

Achievement Points: awarded for excellent levels of achievement and learning in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points: any behavioural incidents will be recorded as behaviour points.

Key Stage 4

Effort Grades: just as at Key Stage 3 these are given by staff to reflect overall effort in lessons and homework. This is on an A to E scale as shown in the box above.

Estimated Grade: this is the grade that staff estimates a pupil will achieve at the end of year 11 if current standards of progress and effort are maintained. Data from previous grade collections is included at each new session so that progress can be monitored.

Attendance: rate of attendance since September.

Achievement Points: awarded for excellent levels of achievement and learning in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points: any behavioural incidents will be recorded as behaviour points.

Key Stage 5

Commitment to Learning Grades: using the same criteria as effort Grades these are given by staff to reflect overall effort in lessons and homework. This is on an A to E scale as shown in the box above.

Minimum Target Grade (MTG): minimum target grades are calculated from Key Stage 4 GCSE average point scores and much like predicted grades at GCSE, represent the minimum grade that a pupil should be aiming to achieve.

Projected Grade: this is the grade that staff estimates a student will achieve at the end of year 13 if current standards of progress and effort are maintained. Data from previous grade collections is included at each new session so that progress can be monitored.

Attendance: rate of attendance since September.

Achievement Points: awarded for excellent levels of achievement and learning in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points: any behavioural incidents will be recorded as behaviour points.

Example of a key stage 3 grade collection report

June 2021

Achievement Points:

Behaviour Points:

Attendance:

Subject	Effort Grades & on track					
	Previous effort	Previous ontrack to personal target	Previous ontrack to national expectation	Current effort	Current ontrack to personal target	Current ontrack to national expectation
Art	A	-	0	A	-	0
Design Technology*	B	0	+			
Drama	B	0	+	B	0	+
English	A	+	++	A	+	++
French	A	0	+	A	0	+
Geography	B	0	+	B	0	+
History	A	0	+	A	0	+
IT*				A	0	+
Computing	B	0	+	B	-	0
Mathematics	A	0	++	A	0	++
Music	A	0	+	A	0	+
PE	B	-	0	B	-	0
PSE				A		
RE	A	0	+	A	0	+
Science	A	0	+	A	+	++

*Taught on a carousel so students will only have a grade for one of these subject.

<p>On track grades These grades indicate if a pupil is on target to achieve their predicted GCSE grade and the national expectation.</p> <p>++ Two grades above target + One grade above target 0 On target - One grade below target -- Two grades below target</p>	<p>Effort Grades Students are given an effort grade by their teacher.</p> <p>A - Excellent B - Good C - Satisfactory D - Poor E - Unsatisfactory</p>
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Please sign the form below and return to your child's form tutor by Thursday 1st July.

I have received a copy of my child's grade collection sheet.

Name of student: _____

Form _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Example of a key stage 4 grade collection report

GRADE COLLECTION

Current Attendance:

Achievement Points:

Behaviour Points:

Number of sessions late:

Recently teachers were asked to record effort grades for each subject and these are shown in the table below.

Subject	Previous effort grade	Effort Grade
English		B
English Literature		B
Mathematics	B	B
Biology	B	A
Chemistry	B	B
Physics	B	B
Geography	B	B
History	B	B
Art	B	A

Please sign the form below and return to your child's form tutor by Friday 16th October.

I have received a copy of my child's grade collection sheet.

Name of student: _____

Form _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Example of a key stage 5 grade collection

Student Name:

Form:

Attendance:

Behaviour points:

Achievement points:

Subject	MTG	Term 1 Projected grades	Term 1 Commitment to learning	Term 2 Projected grade	Term 2 commitment to learning	Term 3 Projected grades	Term 3 commitment to learning
Psychology	B						
Sociology	B						
Health & Social Care	D						

Key	<p>Minimum Target Grades (MTG's) are based on a student's previous achievement at GCSE. N.B. all grades A-E are pass grades at AS and A2 Level.</p> <p>Projected Final Grades (PrjG) is the grade a student would be expected to achieve on present performance.</p> <p>For vocational qualifications, grades are as follows: "D*" Distinction star, "D" Distinction, "M" Merit, "P" Pass, "F" Fail.</p> <p>Commitment to Learning (C2L) grades summarize a student's work ethic, conscientiousness, promptness, ability to meet deadlines, etc. They are graded as follows: "A" Excellent, "B" Good, "C" Satisfactory, "D" Unsatisfactory, "E" Poor.</p>
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Please sign the form below and return to your child's form tutor by Friday 19th March.

I have received a copy of my child's grade collection sheet.

Name of student: _____

Form _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____