



Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Personalised assessments

Guidance for practitioners on individual learner feedback and progress reports

2024 to 2025

Understanding individual learner feedback and learner progress reports from the Numeracy (Procedural), Numeracy (Reasoning) and Reading Personalised Assessments

This guidance highlights some key points that may be helpful to practitioners when considering and using learner feedback and reports to support learning, teaching and progression planning.

It also sets out which reports should be shared with parents and carers, and addresses questions that parents and carers may have.

The purpose of the personalised assessments

The personalised assessments are designed to help a practitioner and learner understand how a learner's reading and numeracy skills are developing and help to plan next steps. They are designed to support learning, teaching and progression planning.

They provide information on numeracy and reading skills and can be used within a range of assessment approaches to support understanding and development of these skills as part of schools' assessment toolbox for the Curriculum for Wales.

What the personalised assessments involve

In personalised or 'adaptive' assessments, the questions and texts (for the Reading assessment) are generated based on the learner's response to the previous question. A learner who answers questions correctly will receive questions and texts that are slightly more challenging. A learner who answers questions incorrectly will receive slightly easier questions and texts. This process continues until the assessment system has gathered sufficient information on the learner's responses. This provides an individual assessment experience and tailors the level of challenge for every learner.

The questions for Numeracy (Procedural) and Numeracy (Reasoning) assessments are chosen from large 'banks' of questions designed for learners in Years 2 to 9. Numeracy (Procedural) focuses on the recall of numerical facts and procedures. Numeracy (Reasoning) focuses on the application of these numerical 'tools' to solve problems within a range of contexts.

The texts and questions for the Reading assessment are chosen from a large 'bank' of texts and questions. The Reading assessments provide information on how well a child understands a text and whether they are able to make judgements about what they are reading.

The assessments are based on the continuum of skills in the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) (see 'Cross-curricular skills frameworks') which aligns with the ethos and principles of the Curriculum for Wales.

Post-assessment, practitioners will have access to the following:

- the individual learner progress report in all subjects
- the individual feedback report in all subjects

What the learner feedback reports for Reading and Numeracy (Procedural) tell me

The learner feedback reports for Reading and Numeracy (Procedural) highlight the learner's strengths as demonstrated in a particular assessment (the hardest questions they got right) and possible areas for development (some of the questions that they got wrong). The statements are based on the continuum of skills in the LNF (see 'Cross-curricular skills frameworks'), as measured in the assessment. Statements are presented in the report along with a sample question and text for each statement (not exactly the same question that the learner received). Up to 4 statements will be included in each section, but the number may be fewer if the learner answered very few questions, for example if a learner skips nearly all of the questions.

The descriptors at the bottom of the report take the learner's final result from the assessment and map this against the complete bank of questions. The first descriptor summarises skills covered by the questions in the bank that relate to the learner's current attainment level. The second descriptor provides examples that are a bit more difficult than those at the learner's current attainment level.

Feedback on skills for individual learners is available for Reading and Numeracy (Procedural) the day after an assessment has been completed. Sample learner feedback reports are available in Annex 1.

What happens when a learner is working at the top of the question bank for Reading and Numeracy (Procedural)

Learners working right at the top of the bank will receive a statement that they have answered questions correctly at the highest level and may need to move on to more challenging content. It is important to note that this statement applies to the skills assessed in that particular personalised assessment and it does not necessarily mean the learner is working at this level in all aspects of Numeracy (Procedural) or Reading. The assessment outcomes form part of a suite of formative information that a teacher will have and should therefore not be viewed or used in isolation.

What happens when a learner is working at the bottom of the question bank in Reading and Numeracy (Procedural)

Learners working right at the bottom of the bank will receive the easiest questions available in the bank. If a learner is unable to answer the easiest questions in the bank, the teacher should consider alternative ways of assessing the learner's skills and areas for improvement.

What the individual feedback report for Numeracy (Reasoning) tells me as a teacher

The report provides an overview of the learner's assessment, including their attainment in 4 of the 5 cross-curricular elements for Numeracy within the LNF: Fluency, Logical reasoning, Conceptual understanding and Strategic competence.

- Fluency: can learners work efficiently, remembering and using facts, relationships and methods?
- Logical reasoning: can learners work creatively and also think about their answers? How can they be sure they are correct?
- Conceptual understanding: these questions probe a learner's understanding how well has the learner understood what they've learned?
- Strategic competence: how well a learner can decide what method to use.

Please note, it is not possible to assess the remaining element, Communicating with symbols, via the personalised assessments.

The report compares the learner's attainment across these 4 elements so teachers can see any specific strengths or areas that might need further development.

For each element, the report will link to resources that include a sample question which will be at the approximate level achieved by the learner.

The report will also include information on how the learner did with each question type, and whether or not hints were used. Hints show differentiation in terms of learner attainment: the fewer hints the learner accesses, the less support and scaffolding they have required to reach the correct answer. If relevant, the report will note if there is evidence that the learner skipped or moved on from questions very quickly. An example report for Numeracy (Reasoning) is available in Annex 1.

How to use the learner feedback report for Numeracy (Reasoning) with learners

For Numeracy (Reasoning), a feedback report is available to the teacher the day after an assessment has been completed. This report should be teacher-mediated; it provides information on how the learner did in key areas of Numeracy (Reasoning) and will link to Numeracy (Reasoning) sample materials which the teacher may use to help learners, either individually or in groups, to develop their reasoning skills. The teacher may choose to discuss the contents of this report with a learner and for this reason the language in the report is directed at the learner using 'you' statements.

The report does not need to be shared with parents and carers and is not available for release to the learner.

The circle (marker) for each element of numerical reasoning on the chart links to a sample question and suggested activities via a hyperlink. The question is matched to the approximate level of proficiency achieved by the learner in that element. It is important to note, however, that the sample questions and activities cover the full continuum of challenge and difficulty, so their appropriateness for individual learners or groups should be assessed by teachers prior to use in the classroom.

Sample questions are accompanied by exemplar methods, together with explanatory text, as well as information on common errors and misconceptions.

To build on the learning from the assessment and from the sample question, 2 suggested class-based activities are included. These can be used with individual learners, small groups or the whole class. The activities are supported by accompanying text for the teacher, offering suggested ways of challenging learners, as well as solutions and identification of the skills addressed within the activity.

The same resources can also be accessed via the group skills profile report.

A short guide on using the sample questions and activities to support progression is also accessed through a link on the report.

Teachers may wish to use this report to start a conversation with the learners in their class and to explore their next steps to develop their reasoning skills. The teacher can use the linked sample questions and activities to develop individual or group activities that support and extend the learning.

What the learner progress report tells me

In addition to the feedback on skills, individual learner reports on progress are available the day after each assessment has been taken. These show the agestandardised score for the most recent assessment. The age-standardised score is calculated by comparing an individual learner's assessment score with the scores of other learners in Wales who were born in the same year and month. Further information on the calculation of age-standardised scores is included below. Example learner progress reports are available in Annex 2. For assessments taken from September 2023, progress and age-standardised scores take account of 'learning time' by comparing learners' assessment scores with those of other learners in their year group who took the assessment at the same point in the academic year. This helps support a better understanding of progression under Curriculum for Wales.

The learner progress report uses the data from the assessments taken to date to build up a picture of the learner's progress over time.

Learner progress report, section 1

The chart includes all online assessments the learner has taken to date. The progress score (the value behind the symbol for each assessment marked on the chart) is a standardised score. It is calculated by comparing an individual learner's outcome with the outcomes for other learners in their year group in Wales who took an assessment at the same time of year as they did. The score range is 950 to 1050 and the average is 1000 (shown by the broken line on the chart). This score is available to schools and is listed in group reports.

The dotted lines show the learner's typical range, based on the assessments taken to date. The range may go up and down over time as data becomes available on more assessments taken by each learner. A learner's position on the chart may vary from one assessment to another for a variety of reasons, for example if they do not do as well as expected in one assessment early in the year and their next assessment gives a considerably higher score, they may be seen to be making more progress upwards relative to other learners.

Learner progress report, section 2

The score given here is the age-standardised score recorded for the learner's most recent assessment. The age-standardised score is worked out by comparing a learner's assessment score with the scores of other pupils in Wales who were born in the same year and month as them and who took an assessment at the same time of year as they did.

The score range is 70 to 130 and the average is 100.

When standardisation was undertaken for each assessment

Re-standardisations for all assessments were carried out in summer 2023 using assessment data for the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

For assessments taken from September 2023, progress and age-standardised scores take account of 'learning time' by comparing learners' assessment scores with those of other learners in their year group who took the assessment at the same point in the academic year.

It is important to note that the assessments are for formative use, so that teachers in all maintained schools have information on the reading and numeracy skills of their learners and a common understanding of strengths and areas for improvement in these skills. When planning progression, teachers are encouraged to give full consideration to the skills identified by the assessments (not the scores alone), alongside any other relevant classroom-based information.

The assessments form a tool focused on understanding learner progress and skills, and should not be used for school performance or accountability purposes. Schools are no longer required to report the outcomes of the assessments to their relevant local authority.

Group reports available to practitioners

In addition to the individual learner feedback and progress reports, and the resources and activities available for Numeracy (Reasoning) described above, practitioners are reminded that the following group reports are available for all subjects:

- group skills profile (LNF areas)
- group profile (scatter plot)
- learner paths
- group progress report
- group skills profile (analysis of strengths and future development areas Reading and Numeracy Procedural only)

Practitioners can customise these reports, for example by choosing a time period and selecting the individuals they wish to view either in a group, whole classes or year group report. For example, a report can be created to reflect groups of differing ability learners within the class or teachers can select learners they know to be more able and talented (MAT) or eligible for free school meals (eFSM). Further information on how to do this can be found in the user guide on the assessment website.

All reports contain a range of information for the group, including age-standardised scores and progress scores. For Numeracy (Reasoning), the group skills profile includes links to resources to help support the development of numerical reasoning skills. Teachers can use these resources for group or individual learner activities.

Sample questions

Sample questions relevant to each skills statement listed in a learner's feedback for Reading and Numeracy (Procedural) can be viewed by clicking the 'sample question PDF' button when they are logged into their Hwb account. These sample questions, which are similar to (but not the same as) the questions the learners receive in the assessments, are also available on Hwb. Sample questions are available for:

 Numeracy (Procedural) (see 'Numeracy (Procedural) sample questions')

- Reading (English) (see 'Reading (English) sample questions')
- Reading (Welsh) (see 'Reading (Welsh) sample questions')

Sample questions and classroom activities for Numeracy (Reasoning) are available from links in the individual learner feedback and also in the group skills profile. These resources are designed for teachers to use after an assessment to support progression in reasoning skills.

Sample questions should not be used for practice

The sample questions for Reading and Numeracy (Procedural) are to aid learners', teachers', parents' and carers' understanding of the areas of the LNF in which a learner has strengths, and areas where they could improve. Following a Numeracy (Reasoning) assessment, teachers have access to resources including sample questions and activities that they can use to support skills development. The purpose of the assessments is to provide information on learners' skills in order to support progress. Therefore 'practising' before taking the assessments is unnecessary, and the sample questions are not intended for this purpose.

Sharing reports with learners

The following reports should be shared with learners:

- the individual learner progress report in all subjects
- the feedback report for Numeracy (Procedural) and Reading (feedback for Numeracy (Reasoning) is teacher-facilitated and is linked to resources to support skills development)

Following an assessment, the reports can be viewed by teachers and then released to the learner's Hwb account via the personalised assessments system. For details on how to do this please see the user guide sections 5.3 and 5.4. Schools are encouraged to share these while they are still current.

Sharing reports with parents and carers

The Provision of Information by Head Teachers to Parents and Adult Pupils (Wales) Regulations 2022 ("end of year reports") require that a brief commentary on the results of the assessments be included in the end of year report to parents and carers.

We strongly advise that the commentary in the end of year report includes the following reports ('personalised assessment reports'):

- the individual learner progress report in all subjects
- the feedback report for Numeracy (Procedural) and Reading (feedback for Numeracy (Reasoning) is teacher-facilitated and is linked to resources to support skills development

The requirement to provide the end of year report in writing to parents and carers is mandatory. In addition to that, schools are encouraged to share the personalised assessment reports with parents and carers while the information is current. Teachers and headteachers will use their professional judgement on the most appropriate timing and methods for sharing feedback and reports, for example:

- on-screen at a parents' evening in the context of other information on the learner's progress
- printed out and shared at the end of term

Normally, if the assessments are taken twice during the academic year, parents and carers should receive both sets of feedback.

Two animations for parents and carers are available (see personalised assessment animations for parents and carers), providing an introduction to the assessments and explaining feedback and reports. Schools are encouraged to share the animations via their school web pages and communication channels.

Consideration should be given to how feedback is provided to learners and parents or carers who do not have access to a device outside of the school environment, which is more likely to be the case for those from lower-income households.

If schools wish to print copies of individual learners' feedback or progress reports, they may select 'Print' from within the browser and print it directly. A function for printing reports for multiple learners is also available on the assessment website. Further information on how to do this can be found in the user guide on the assessment website.

Supporting parents and carers with interpreting the reports

Some parents and carers may be unfamiliar with interpreting the reports but it is important that they are able to understand the information given to them about their child and what it means for their child's learning and progression.

When given a copy of their child's progress report, parents and carers can also be given a copy of the following for:

- Numeracy (Procedural) (see 'Personalised assessment progress report Numeracy (Procedural): Information for parents and carers')
- Numeracy (Reasoning) (see 'Personalised assessment progress report Numeracy (Reasoning): Information for parents and carers')

 Reading (see 'Personalised assessment progress report – Reading: Information for parents and carers')

To help parents and carers interpret their child's feedback report, parents and carers can also be given a copy of the following for:

- Reading (see 'Personalised assessment feedback Reading: Information for parents and carers')
- Numeracy (Procedural) (see 'Personalised assessment feedback Numeracy (Procedural): Information for parents and carers').

The Numeracy (Reasoning) report is not designed to be issued directly to parents and carers. This is because reports contain terminology that is challenging to understand and interpret without support, and also because the reports contain links to resources designed for teachers to access that they may want to select or adapt for their learners.

It may also be helpful to signpost parents and carers to Online personalised assessment guidance produced to aid interpretation and provide information on the reports.

The difference between a teacher assessment judgement and learner feedback from an assessment

Teacher assessment judgements are built up from a large evidence base over time. They can take account of skills demonstrated during observation, oral work, class discussion, extended tasks and projects, and group work, for example. Learner feedback from an assessment reflects a snapshot of the learner's skills at the time the assessment was taken. Teachers will consider this feedback alongside other information they have on learners' skills in the classroom, in order to plan their learning. Both types of assessment provide useful, but different, information.

When a learner's assessment feedback seems to contradict the teacher assessment judgement

Different kinds of assessments can give different feedback. This can be for several reasons and so the feedback needs to be interpreted carefully. Using outcomes from different assessments can prompt important questions and help to get a clearer picture of strengths and areas for improvement.

If assessment feedback suggests that a learner has not demonstrated all the skills they show in the classroom context, then this might be because they do not always show their best work in an assessment context. All forms of assessment have limitations and that is why best assessment practice draws on a range of different assessment opportunities.

Why does a learner not have assessment feedback or progress for 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021?

During the 2019 to 2020 school year, some schools had not used the personalised assessments before schools were closed as a result of the pandemic in spring 2020.

During the 2020 to 2021 school year, the personalised assessments were on a 'reasonable endeavours' basis. This meant that schools were required to make their best efforts to use the assessments where possible to support learners to make progress in their reading and numeracy skills. However, the Welsh Government allowed flexibility for schools to make professional judgements on the well-being of individual learners following their return to the classroom, recognising also that schools faced practical and logistical challenges in scheduling assessments at this time.

Therefore, some learners will not have taken assessments during 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021, and will not have feedback or progress shown for these periods.

Support for practitioners

The assessment administration handbook and other guidance is available on Hwb (see Guidance for schools).

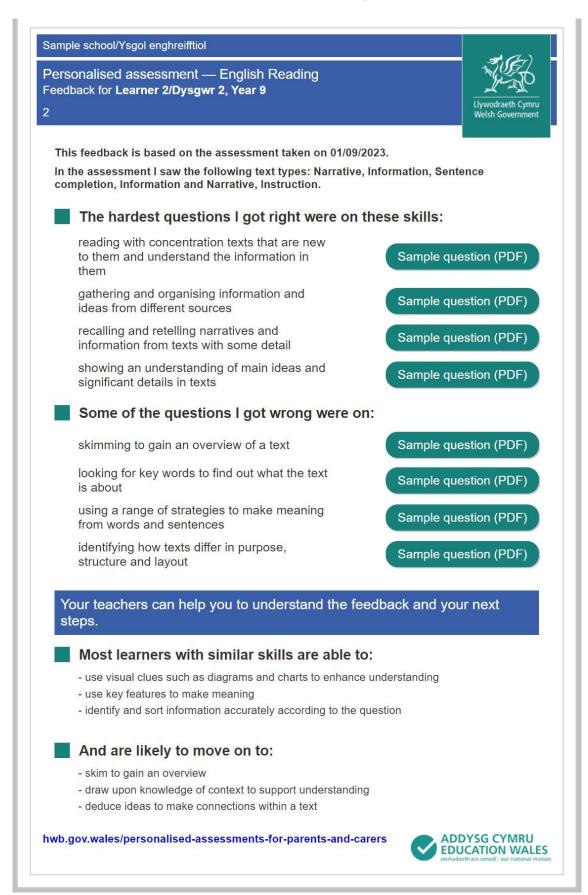
A user guide to scheduling and facilitating the assessments, training videos and prerecorded training webinars on using feedback and progress reports can be found on the assessment website when logged into Hwb.

If you have any questions about the personalised assessments, please contact the assessment helpdesk (tel: 029 2026 5099, email: help@personalisedassessments.wales).

Annex 1: Sample learner feedback – Numeracy (Procedural)

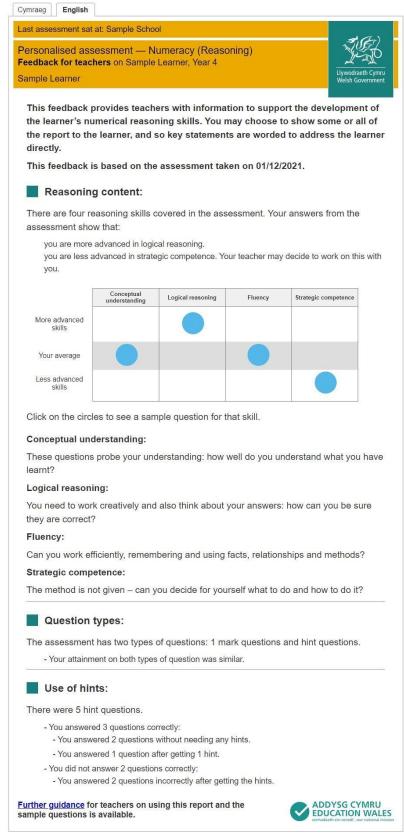


Sample learner feedback – Reading



Sample learner feedback – Numeracy (Reasoning)

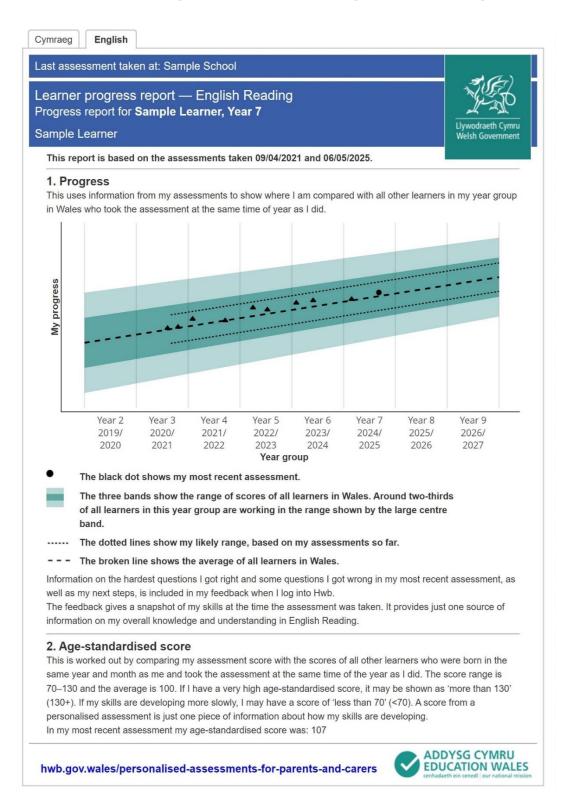
Note: As explained in the narrative above, the Numeracy (Reasoning) feedback report is not designed to be issued directly to parents or carers.



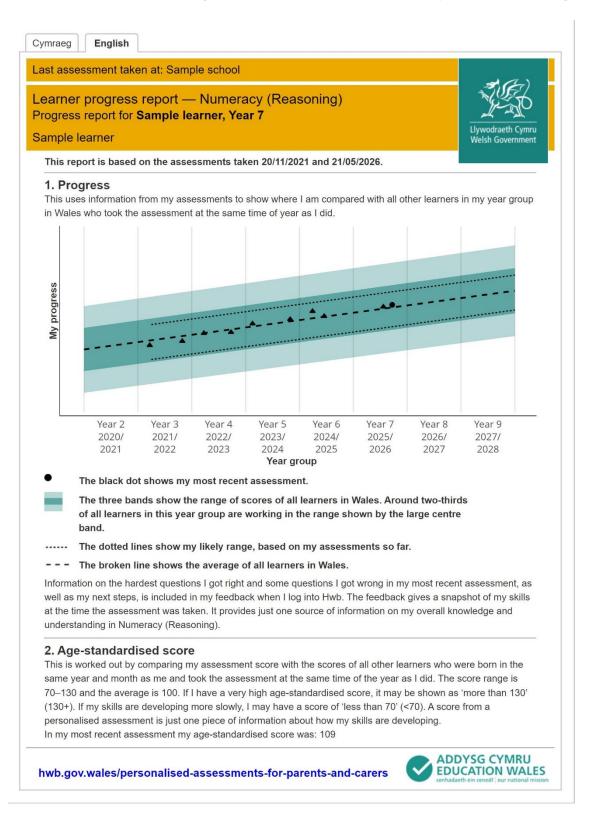
Annex 2: Sample learner progress report – Numeracy (Procedural)

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Sample learner progress report – English Reading



Sample learner progress report – Numeracy (Reasoning)



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