

East Ayrshire Support Team (EAST) is a central support team within Education (Economy & Skills) tasked with supporting educational establishments to meet the spectrum of needs for children and young people with additional support needs.

Context

One of the roles of an EAST member of staff is to support assessment in order to ensure that the assessment process is robust, reliable and valid and that intervention leads to improved outcomes for children and young people.

EAST staff follow guidance detailed in Standard Circular 102 (East Ayrshire Assessment Process). East Ayrshire processes mirror the national picture of best practice, as detailed in Building the Curriculum 5 which states:

Assessment supports learning by focusing on the process of children and young people moving from where they are in their learning towards their desired goals. Assessment can also be used to identify and plan any support they will need to achieve these goals.

Staff should discuss with learners what they are expected to learn. They should clarify and share learning intentions and success criteria and appropriate experiences for achieving these. Both staff and learners should foster a sense of achievement by sharing challenging and realistic expectations. Sharing success criteria along with learning intentions allows learners to 'see what success looks like'. With practice, success criteria can often be devised by the learners themselves. (P23)

Assessment should:

- meet the learners' needs and enable them to achieve aspirational goals and maximise their potential
- follow and reinforce the curriculum and promote high quality learning and teaching approaches
- support learning by engaging learners and providing high quality feedback
- be proportionate and fit for purpose

Every mainstream primary establishment in East Ayrshire has an allocation of EAST staffing. EAST staff support secondary colleagues with assessment on a needs led basis.

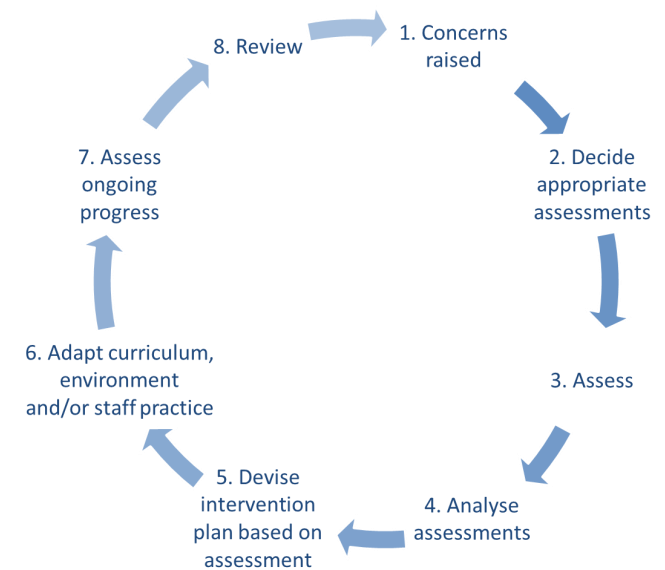
With regards to assessing additional support needs, the ASL Act Code of Practice (2009) states:

- The education authority should always endeavour to seek and take account of the views of the child/ young person
- Assessment is not based on a one off activity or test, it is an ongoing process of gathering, structuring and making sense of information about a child/young person, and his/her circumstances
- The purpose of assessment under the Act ultimately is to help identify the actions required to maximise development and learning
- Assessment is a dynamic process with the child/ young person at the centre. As a result it should not be divorced from other aspects of the child's/young person's life either at school, home or in the community. It will usually include discussion with parents and professionals involved with the child/young person, for

example, class teacher, support for learning staff.

- It should build on other assessment information already available. It may involve observation in one or more day-to-day situations and/or individual work with the child or young person as required.

East Ayrshire Assessment Process uses a cyclical approach.



Who is involved?

The assessment process has the child/young person and their family at the centre.

EAST staff contribute to the assessment process for many children and young people. This may involve direct support with assessment or advisory support.

The information gathering process may also involve:

- Class teacher/classroom assistant
- ASN Coordinator
- Senior Leadership Team
- Educational Psychologist
- Health professionals e.g. Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist
- Social work personnel

Role of EAST staff

- Support class teacher and ASN coordinator/PT SfL with appropriate differentiation within class supports and teaching/learning approaches
- Support class teacher and ASN coordinator/PT SfL in gathering and analysing initial curriculum based and contextual information as part of assessment process
- Support school staff in identifying and implementing appropriate evidence based interventions, based on assessment
- Support school staff in further assessment of a child/young person's needs, as appropriate
- Support children/young people as individuals or in small groups, in consultation with the ASN Coordinator/PT SfL
- Monitor and evaluate child/young person's progress in response to intervention together with school staff, children/young people and parents/carers
- Consult with school staff, children/young people and parents/carers and other agencies in gathering further assessment where appropriate

Assessment directory

EAST has produced an assessment directory which

details the assessments most commonly used across

- Health and Wellbeing,
- Literacy and
- Numeracy

This is available on GLOW.

Assessment Summary Grid

This is the main tool used to collate all assessment information. The analysis of this information a collaborative process with the child/young person at the centre. This is also available on GLOW.

For further information please contact:

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Assessment should be an ongoing cyclical process, building upon information available and selectively adding to it, through professional discussion and dialogue with those involved.



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Information Leaflet

East Ayrshire Assessment Process

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