Castlebar School

A Guide to Levels and Learning Steps

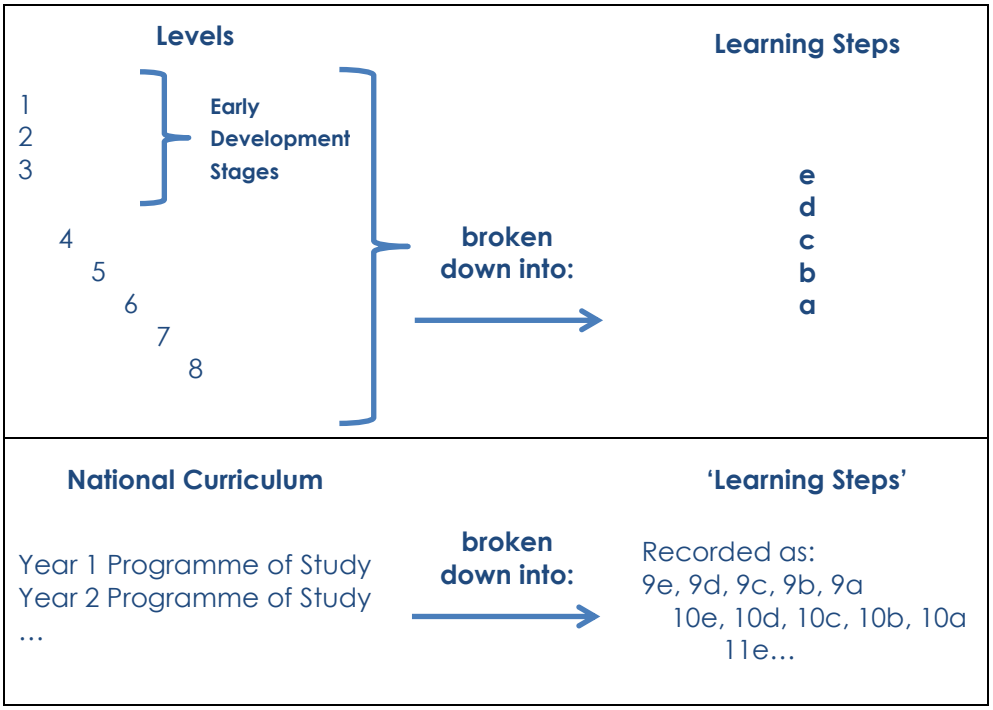
Levels and the National Curriculum

Levels and Learning Steps are used to show small steps of progress. They can be used if your child is working at Early Developmental Levels. There are 8 Levels (1 to 8). Levels 1 to 3 focus on very early stages of development where a pupil's aims would be very similar across all areas of learning. Levels 4 to 8 focus on progress made within each separate subject area.
Children working above Level 8 follow the National Curriculum Programmes of Study. Their progress is tracked using 'I Can' statements that break the curriculum into smaller steps.

Learning Steps

Learning Steps provide targets in staged steps up to Level 8. Each learning objective is broken into five small steps which are recorded (e, d, c, b, a). These five smaller steps indicate whether a pupil is just beginning to achieve within that particular Level (i.e. 4e), or if a child is working securely within that particular Level (i.e. 4a).
Beyond Level 8 Castlebar has broken down the Programmes of Study for the beginning of the National Curriculum into Learning Step-equivalent in English and Mathematics.

How do Learning Steps relate to the National Curriculum?



Learning Steps

They are useful for:

- Focusing on pupil attainment in a consistent way
- Tracking pupil progress as well as achievement
- Setting clearer targets