Assessment Methodology at Queensmill College.



Queensmill College is a specialist college for autistic young people. Assessment at Queensmill College is as comprehensive as it is personalized for each student/intern. We follow the same format as the main school and this is overseen by our Trust Assessment Coordinator.

Due to the complexity of autism with developmental and attainment trajectories that differ from neurotypical peers, we recognize that most students/interns attending the College cannot be assessed using measures designed for mainstream students. Indeed, for the most part, measures such as exams and GCSEs are largely inaccessible for our students/interns and do not carry meaningfulness when considered within the context of their disability. Aside from this, these assessments largely ignore individuality and do not celebrate the unique achievements and milestones that our students/interns make in the core areas affecting their development (i.e., Social Communication and Emotion Regulation). To this effect, Assessment at Queensmill College places especial value on gains made in autism as this is what is pertinent to the cohort of young people who attend the College, their wellbeing and overall success in life.

In the absence of standardized assessments suitable for special needs populations, Queensmill College have developed their own assessment battery which tracks progress in autism/personal development as well as academic attainment. The College uses the evidence-based Social Communication Emotion Regulation Transaction Supports (SCERTS) model to support with target-setting in 'My Autism' or 'My Personal Development') and utilizes a variety of tools, including the Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) Curriculum, to support with teaching and assessment. Functional English and Maths are embedded within the curriculum. Teachers at Queensmill College conduct assessments that are wholly relevant and individualized to each student/intern and these are often supplemented with evidence through photographs and collaboration with other professionals, such as Speech & Language Therapists (SALT) and Occupational Therapists (OT).

Teachers, including those who are new, are well-trained in the College assessment measures and ongoing support is available to them throughout the year from the Trust Assessment Coordinator and Head of College. Teachers work to an assessment schedule with clear deadlines for various pieces of work. Regular teacher's meetings are held for the purpose of introducing changes/updates to assessment and for moderation purposes. This short report aims to briefly describe the variety of assessments that teachers undertake in documenting how student/intern progress is measured, recorded, and monitored at Queensmill College.

1. Annual Review Teacher's Report.

The most comprehensive summative assessment that teachers prepare is the Annual Review Teacher's Report. This is compiled once per year, typically while teachers and therapists review the student's/intern's Education Heath Care Plan outcomes. The Annual Review Teacher's Report is a detailed report whereby the

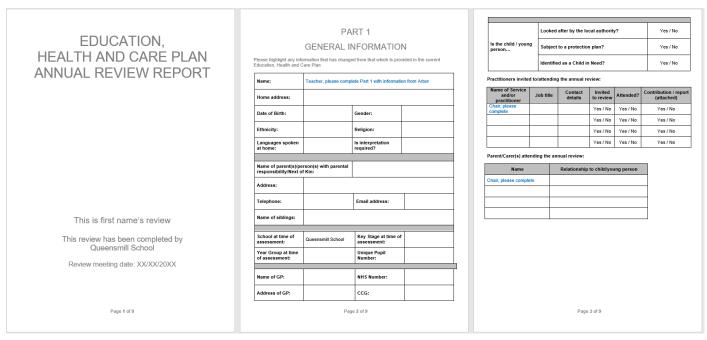
teacher summarizes the student's/intern's achievements and their needs (or areas to develop) in each curriculum subject and in two domains as mapped onto SCERTS (i.e., social communication, emotional regulation). In discussing student needs/areas to develop, teachers are careful to explain the learners' limitations but they also describe the supports in place to help the student/intern to make progress in their areas of need. Teacher report templates vary dependent on setting (Queensmill College Q6 or Project Search). In all reports there is a dedicated section to discuss the student's current autism/disability presentation, specifically the strategies and supports that have proved successful that year and any notable progress made. Teachers include a summary of the 'I Can' targets that the student/intern has been working toward and the report is illustrated throughout with photographic evidence of the young person participating in a range of activities at college, in the community and/or at work. The report is written with the primary intention of communicating to parents/carers the student's/intern's main developments at college, but is further used by the next class teacher as a starting point, or baseline, for future work to be carried out in the new academic year. This year templates have undergone revision to streamline the numbers of sections that teachers are writing and prompt headings have been inserted throughout. Teachers have been encouraged to make cross-curricular links throughout the report where learning sections have been removed (i.e., discuss functional English and functional Maths achievements throughout other sections such as Community Access, Independent Living and Health). Teachers receive support for their report writing from the Trust's Assessment Coordinator and from the Head of College who will chair their Annual Review meetings. Teachers are awarded additional time to prepare reports.

Queensmill School Report for Review and End of Year Report	Queensmill School Report for Review and End of Year Report	Queensmill School Report for Review and End of Year Repo
Name:	Needs/areas to develop:	Summer Term 2024 Targets
		My Learning:
Date of Birth: NC Year:	Emotional Regulation	I oan (English).
Date of James	Strengths:	I can (Maths).
MY LEARNING		I can (Science).
	Needs/areas to develop:	My Aulism:
English Strengths;		I can (Social Communication – Joint Attention).
		I oan (Social Communication = Symbol Use).
Needs/areas to develop:	MY PROGRESS	I can (Emotion Regulation = Mutual Regulation).
	I-Can statements I have been working on Aylumn Term 2023 Targets	I can (Emotion Regulation – Self-Regulation).
	My Learning:	
Maths Strengths;		Recommendations from my teacher for next year Brief recommendations about the key priorities for next year (3-4
21012112	I can (English). I can (Maths).	sentences)
Needs/areas to develop:		
	I can (Science).	My recommendations for next year
	My Autism;	E.g. what the student enjoys about school / particular activities etc
Science	I can (Social Communication – Joint Attention).	
Strengths:	I can (Social Communication – Symbol Use).	REVIEW OF OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS:
Needs/greas to develop:	I can (Emotion Regulation = Mutual Regulation).	Copy and paste here the completed review of outcomes table from
Needs/dreds to develop.	I can (Emotion Regulation – Self-Regulation).	the EHCP review, once the table is complete and all outcomes have
	Spring Term 2024 Targets	been reviewed
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)	My Learning;	
Strengths:	I can (English).	
	I aan (Maths).	
Needs/areas to develop;	I can (Science).	
	My Autism:	
MY AUTISM	I can (Social Communication – Joint Attention).	
Social Communication	I can (Social Communication – Symbol Use).	
Strengths:	I can (Emotion Regulation = Mutual Regulation).	
	I can (Emotion Regulation = Self-Regulation).	
	2	
1	2	

2. Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) Review.

As a part of the Annual Review process, teachers review each student's/intern's EHCP. The review is carried out in conjunction with the student's SALT and/or OT to enable well-rounded views and planning for next steps as evaluated by all professionals involved in the student's/intern's life at college. Where a student/intern has a particular medical or mental health need, their GP or other health care practitioner may be invited to contribute to the review and/or to attend the review meeting. More typically, teachers and therapists review the progress made toward EHCP outcomes that were set forth by the previous class teacher and therapist team who had been working with the student/intern. Indeed, these outcomes were used throughout the year to inform termly target-setting (see below) and ongoing work at college.

As such teachers can provide evidence of how outcomes have been worked on across the year and what progress the student/intern has been able to make, with the relevant supports in place. Outcomes are typically reviewed as 'achieved', 'partially achieved' or 'not achieved'. Teachers and therapists provide commentary about the reason for their judgements, drawing on concrete examples and the work they have carried out with the student/intern to inform this judgement. Where students/interns have achieved an outcome, teachers and therapists set a new outcome often in a related area so that progress continues to be built upon. Where an outcome is 'partially achieved' or 'not achieved', the outcome may continue to be worked on with additional supports or modifications in place. Should a new priority be identified, a new outcome will be drafted to this effect. In any case, a thorough review of the outcomes is required and parents/carers are encouraged to provide their feedback on reviewed outcomes before, and during, the Annual Review meeting. The review of the EHCP is sufficiently flexible enough that if parents/carers do not agree with the new outcomes that teachers and therapists have drafted, then the outcome can be edited or removed completely and a new outcome can be inserted instead. This is relatively rare, however, because ordinarily parents/carers are happy with the progress their young person has made and agree with the new outcomes that have been written for them. The EHCP review is an important part of the Trust's assessment package as it enables monitoring and recording of much longer-term student/intern targets that are statutory. Teachers are supported at every step of this process by the Trust's Assessment Coordinator who provides all materials/supports (e.g., timetable for the reviews, chairs list, updated review templates, advice and procedures document setting out actions to complete before/during/after the review meeting, invitation letters for parents etc.). The Assessment Coordinator also provides regular updates/reminders, spaced throughout the year, via email and training.



3. Personal Learning Plans (PLPs).

Teachers set targets for each student/intern in their group three times per year at the beginning of Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms. Each student/intern is set a group of targets to support attainment in two categories:

'My Learning' to support progress with their work towards four targets that link to the PFA or Employability curriculum.

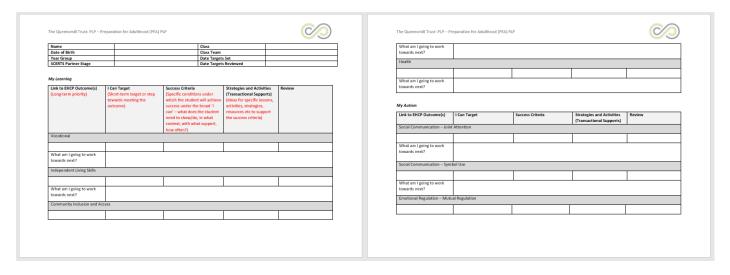
'My Autism' or 'My Personal Development' to support students/interns with their Social Communication and Emotion Regulation skills or other relevant areas, regarding their needs. All students at Q6 are set four targets in My Autism; interns at Project Search are set two targets in Personal Development given that not all interns are autistic and may be diagnosed with other developmental disabilities.

Termly targets are formulated as 'I Can' statements, celebrations of achievements that students/interns are likely to make with the right strategies and supports in place. EHCPs are used to inform termly target-setting and are explicitly linked to the 'I Can' statements in the PLP, where links can be made. In this way, long-term priorities are worked on through more specific and attainable shorter-term targets. Teachers write detailed Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) with specific success criteria that are reviewed toward the end of each term. Depending on the level of mastery, teachers may review proficiency (in meeting the success criteria) according to four different levels of mastery:

- Mastered: the student/intern has gained significant independence with the skill/knowledge taught and this is seen across contexts and over time (100%)
- Secure: the student/intern is mostly independent but may need minimal support on occasion (75%)
- Emerging: the student/intern continues to need much support to fully develop the skill (50%) or
- Experienced: the student/intern was unable to engage with what was being taught or showed only brief participation in linked activities and materials (25%)

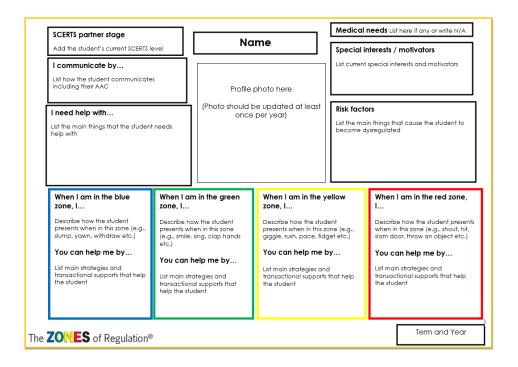
Teachers also record these judgements in Onwards & Upwards, an online progress tracking software specifically designed for schools with SEN students. This enables data to be collated and analyzed across the College per term, informing Trust leadership about average rates of progress for 'My Learning' and 'My Autism/My Personal Development'. Data is further analyzed to look within subjects, within key stages (e.g., Post 16, Post 19) and within individual class groups. Data from individual class groups then informs discussions held during Progress Tracking Meetings, where class teachers meet individually with the Assessment Coordinator to discuss the termly progress of their students/interns as a group. Conversations had at Progress Tracking are used to inform update to assessment teacher meetings where common misconceptions can be addressed as well as the sharing of insights/reflections from an accumulation of all Progress Tracking meetings held across the Trust. As progress for young people with autism is rarely linear, PLPs with personalized 'I Can' targets have the advantage of supporting target-setting that is meaningful and relevant for each student/intern, uniquely. Progression can be achieved by staying within the same broad 'I can' area for a few terms running and varying the success criteria based on how well student/intern was able to master or secure success criteria in the previous term. New students, those joining Q6 for the first time from another school or setting, begin with four new starter targets mapped onto relationships with staff, relationships with peers, communication, and sensory/environment. Once new students have settled in and have completed their first term at college, they then move towards their first full cycle of targets (i.e., PFA PLP) (see below). PLPs are shared with parents/carers at the start of the term for their information and for their comments. A summary letter is sent to parents at the end of the term to inform about the progress made.

Q6 Post 19 PFA PLP	Project Search PLP
My Learning - Vocational - Independent Living Skills - Community Integration and Access - Health	My Learning - Employability Skills - Health and Safety - Wellness - ICT
My Autism - SC: Joint Attention - SC: Symbol Use - ER: Mutual Regulation - ER: Self Regulation	My Personal Development - SC - ER



4. Pen Portraits

Pen Portraits are one-page summaries that provide an essential profile for each young person in the college. Pen Portraits bring together basic information pertinent to the student/intern and include summaries relating to medical needs, communication preferences, special interests/motivators, things the student/intern needs help with and risk factors for dysregulation. Four coloured boxes linking to the Zones of Regulation program provide information about how the student/intern presents when they are in different states of alertness (e.g., when I am in the red zone I... scream/shout/cry/run away etc.). Following from this are details about how a student/intern can best be supported when s/he is in that zone (e.g., staff to reduce language, use visuals, offer break, offer motivator, allow time to calm in a quiet room etc.). Teachers draft Pen Portraits at the beginning of the academic year and update these in the Summer Term to reflect any updates, for example changes to special interests or changes to what the student/intern needs help with. For many years Pen Portraits were displayed in classrooms near to the door, allowing all visitors (including cover staff) an insight into the individual needs and presentation of students from first entering the classroom. For confidentiality reasons Pen Portraits are now displayed behind a cupboard or kitchenette door or are housed in a ring binder on the teacher's desk. Q6 teachers direct cover staff to read Pen Portraits when they arrive in the classroom, so staff who are less familiar with students can glean essential information before beginning work that day.



5. Emotion Regulation Support Plans (ERSPs).

All students/interns have an Emotion Regulation Support Plan (ERSP) which assesses risk factors for dysregulation. More than this, however, ERSPs are a tool written and used by teachers/staff members to document signs of dysregulation and the effective transactional supports that are in place to calm a student/intern when s/he shows signs of dysregulation. Plans are reviewed termly, but can be reviewed at any point during the academic year when risk factors and/or signs of dysregulation change. Plans are explicitly linked to the Zones of Regulation program. Rooted in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Zones of Regulation is a framework that uses four colours (blue, green, yellow and red) to help students identify their feelings and level of alertness. It is a curriculum, embedded into everyday practise at Queensmill College, which aims to help students/interns gain skills in consciously regulating their emotions and their actions (i.e., blue zone: slow and low, yellow: losing control, red: feeling out of control). Using Zones of Regulation as a framework for teaching students/interns about their own emotion regulation, the ERSP template is then divided into different coloured sections. Teachers assess signs of dysregulation and transactional supports under each coloured zone. From an assessment perspective, the ERSP is a running document that details and summarises how to best support a young person when they are emotionally triggered and will likely require adult support to regain regulation. Supports that are no longer effective, or risk factors that are no longer a concern, are moved to a 'historic' section on the plan. Signs of dysregulation that are no longer observed are also moved to the historic section. The ERSP template was re-drafted a few years ago with feedback from teachers and senior leaders to ensure that plans are as informative and coherent as possible. The revised template allows for a termly review that is linked to current Emotion Regulation 'I Can' targets. Signs of dysregulation that could cause a safeguarding or welfare concern should they be taken out of the context of autism are also highlighted on the plan, where this is applicable (e.g., student using sexualised language when experiencing extreme dysregulation).

	Signs of dysregulation	<u>Transactional Supports</u>
	(changes in the students presentation which tell you s/he is now dysregulated and that participation/well-being is being impacted)	(the strategies and modifications that staff make to themselves and to the environment to help the student manage in the zone they are in and/or recover from dysregulation)
SLOW Feeling slow		
CAUTION Losing control		
STOP Feeling out of control		

EHC outcome(s) linked to emotional regulation (where relevant)			
Termly Review			
Term	Emotional regulation skills	Current 'My Autism' emotional	Target review
	How responsive to assistance is the student when they	regulation targets	To be completed at the end of
	are dysregulated?	 List current self-regulation and 	each term following PLP review.

The Queensmill Trust Emotional Regulation Support Plan *Child's name*

6. Communication Profile.

Previously teachers at Q6 kept PECS records and critical communication checklists for individual students who were learning to communicate using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). These were completed twice annually, at the beginning of Autumn Term (as a baseline) and at the end of Summer Term (to measure progress in communicative abilities as developed throughout the year). Completion of these assessments enabled teachers/therapists to assess and keep records of the students' developing communication skills, specifically through the student's use of PECS. While many students use PECS as a principal means to communicate, many students do not. Some of the students in the college are fully verbal (i.e., Conversation Partner stage) while other students (e.g., Social Partners, Language Partners) who are not verbal, or are minimally verbal, utilize other communication systems in place of, or in addition to, PECS. It was therefore recognized that PECS records and critical communication checklists were not suitable for all students in the college and because these were too limiting, they needed replacing. A new Communication Profile was drafted in response to this. The Communication Profile documents the students' SCERTS partner stage, how the student prefers to communicate, using what means (verbal or AAC) and for what functions (e.g., to request/ask, to protest/reject/complain, to greet, to comment, to direct etc.). The Communication Profile is currently being trailed with SALTs and select classrooms at Queensmill School, with the aim being that all students at Q6 will have a Communication Profile by Summer Term 2024. The assessment is informed by both therapist and teacher knowledge of the student and is informed by ongoing work in class, including observations of how the student communicates across contexts.

	Name:	
STUDENT PHOTO	Class / Teacher:	
	Speech and Language Th	erapist / Assistant:
	SCERTS Partner Stage:	
	Review Date:	
Symbol Understanding/F		
	Yes/no	Examples
Objects		
Photographs		
Colour symbols		
Black and white symbols		
Words		
Pre-Verbal Gesture		
Body Language		
Facial Expression		
Eye contact		
Makaton		
Core Boards		
Communication board		
Verbal		
PECS		
Proloquo2go		
Switches (VOCA)		
OOR		
Communication function	s used: Use SCERTS Joint At	
To request/ ask	Yes/no	Examples
To protest/ reject/ compl	ain	
To greet		
To greet To comment		
To direct		
To question		
To give opinion		
To share news		
To start a conversation		
To start a conversation		
To start a conversation To call To express/share emotion	1	

Communication Profile			
To label			
To tell a story			
To seek clarification			
I	COUNTY C		
Language Level (Expressive) (U	se SCERTS Symbol Usej		
	Yes/no	Examples	
Single symbol/word		,	
Verb + object			
Subject - Verb - Object			
(who/what doing/what)			
Subject - Verb - Object			
Subject - Verb - attribute -			
Object			
Language Level (Receptive Leve	ei – Dianks/ L41) Use SCE	KTS Symbol Usej	
	Yes/no	Examples	
Level 1			
Level 2			
Level 3			
Level 4			

7. Baseline Review.

New starter students, those joining Q6 from a different educational setting or entering college for the first time, are given a Baseline Review within the first eight weeks of starting. Through their daily observations and direct work in class, teachers informally assess student's initial social-communication and emotional regulation capabilities and they also assess students' response and ability to access classroom activities. These observations are summarized and documented in a Baseline report written by the teacher. Therapists may provide information about the presentation of the young person's autism in a separate report where it has been identified that they will contribute to the Baseline Review. Baseline Review reports are then collated and shared with parents/carers and other key professionals, ahead of a short meeting that is held at college. Teachers highlight, in the meeting, any notable achievements that the student has already made since transitioning to Q6 and parents/carers provide information from the home perspective. Baseline meetings are an opportunity for staff to welcome new parents/families, to begin building professional relationships with them and to agree on key priorities for the student, moving forwards. Therefore, from an assessment perspective, the Baseline Review is an informal assessment of the student's current presentation and a chance to refine priorities that will inform future planning and assessment for that student uniquely.

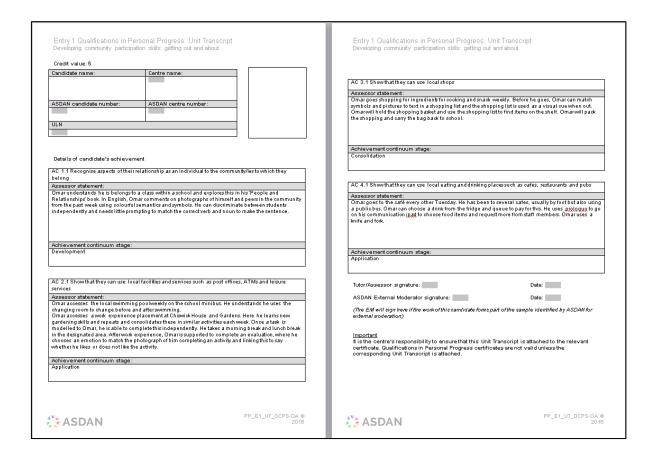


Name	Teacher	
Date of Birth	Class	
Year Group	Student Start Date	
SCERTS Partner Stage	Date Report Written	
Area	Comments	
	(within 6 weeks of start date)	
Social communication and relationships at college		
How does the student interact with adults and peers?		
What total communication approaches does the student use and respond well to?		
Emotional regulation		
How does the student express and manage their feelings at college?		
How responsive to assistance is the student when they are dysregulated?		
Is the student using any emotional regulation strategies independently?		
How long does it take the student to recover from extreme dysregulation?		
Attitude to learning (participation and attention in college activities)		
Is the student able to sit, participate in activities and respond to instructions?		

8. Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) - Year 10+

The Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) Personal Progress Qualification (Award and Certificate) is run at Queensmill School and Queensmill College Q6. The qualifications have been developed for learners working towards, and at, Entry 1 level to have their achievements recognized within a qualification framework. ASDAN is designed for schools, colleges, residential and day care services, training providers and independent provision. The ASDAN Personal Progress qualification is made up of units based on the four Preparation for Adulthood curriculum areas (Employment, Independent Living, Good Health, and Community Inclusion). Each unit has a credit value with 1 credit being equal to approximately 10 hours of learning. To achieve a qualification, learners must gain credits by completing their chosen units and providing clear evidence that they have met the full requirements of the unit. At Queensmill School and Queensmill College Q6 these units are evidenced through work completed by the student, photographic evidence, and assessor statements. Students typically complete 2-3 units per academic year. In addition to the units there is also an achievement continuum that supports evidencing. A selection of units are required each year for external moderation.

At Queensmill College Project Search, the ASDAN Employability Qualification (Award and Certificate) is run. This has a total qualification time of around 150 hours. The course is delivered at Entry 2 through to NC Level 1 and is tailored to the level of the interns. The course is designed to help learners develop the skills needed to become successful employees. The primary purpose of this qualification is to support interns in overcoming barriers to entering work. A selection of units are required for external moderation. All students receive a Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) once they have achieved enough credits. An ASDAN audit is carried out every few years. Rachel Thompson, Head of Queensmill College, is the internal moderator for Queensmill School and Queensmill College.



Summary:

In summary, the college employs an extensive and robust assessment package designed to document individual student/intern progress in several areas relating to curriculum and autism. In addition to collecting data at the individual and class level, data is also collated at a much wider key stage and whole school/college levels allowing trends to be analyzed over time. The key assessments are summarized in the table below. The next review of the school's assessment work will take place in Summer 2024. This work will be led by the Executive Head of the Trust, Head of School/College, and Assessment Coordinator.

Type of assessment	Purpose and what is assessed
Annual Review Teacher's Report	Annual progress with curriculum learning and autism
Education Health Care Plan	Achievement against long-term targets
(EHCP) Review	
Personal Learning Plan (PLP)	Achievement against short-term (termly) targets
Emotion Regulation Support	Risk factors, signs of dysregulation and transactional supports used to
Plan (ERSP)	support student recovery
Communication Profile	Communication preferences and critical communication skills
Pen Portraits	Essential student information in a one-page summary
Baseline Review	Integration into the new college setting
ASDAN	Preparation for adult life