Growing Together at St Mary's

Navigating the New Zealand Education Changes: A Parent's Guide to the Curriculum Refresh and New eTap Reports.

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Our Unchanging Anchor

“To develop confident, connected, actively involved learners living in relationship with Christ.”

As the national curriculum evolves, our core mission at St Mary’s remains our steadfast guide.

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Replacing Jargon with Clarity



The national curriculum is shifting. We are moving away from confusing, static Curriculum Levels and embracing broad **Phases of Learning**.

This allows us to focus on the deep **Big Ideas** your child needs to master at a natural pace, ensuring they are truly ready before taking their next step.

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2007 Curriculum



We are replacing level numbers (like Level 2B or 3P) with progress descriptors of Learning. This makes it easier to talk about where your child is on their journey.

Example: The Three Phases of Learning

Phase 1: Years 0-3

Building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy.

Phase 2: Years 4-6

Appiying skills and exploring core concepts across subjects.

Phase 3: Years 7-8

Deepening understanding, critical thinking, and preparation for secondary education.

These phases allow for more personalized and natural progression through the curriculum.

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Further Descriptions of the Phases

Phase 1: Foundations (Years 0-3)

- Building strong literacy & numeracy basics.
- Fostering social-emotional skills & confidence.
- Play-based exploration of the world.
- Developing curiosity and a love of learning.

Phase 2: Exploration & Application (Years 4-6)

- Applying foundational skills to new concepts.
- Exploring core subjects in greater depth.
- Developing independent & collaborative learning.
- Problem-solving and inquiry-based projects.

Phase 3: Preparation & Critical Thinking (Years 7-8)

- Deepening subject understanding & knowledge.
- Cultivating critical, abstract & complex thinking.
- Preparing for secondary education transition.
- Taking ownership of learning pathways.

These phases allow for more personalized and natural progression through the curriculum.

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A Daily Commitment to Foundational Learning



Structured Literacy

1 Hour

Every single day, we dedicate 60 minutes to direct, explicit instruction in reading and writing.



Structured Maths

1 Hour

Building strong number sense and problem-solving through daily, dedicated mathematics instruction.

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Aligning Our Approach with National Changes

Old Way (Phasing Out)	**New NZ Way** (Refreshed)	**St Mary's Approach**
Rigid Levels (1-8)	Phases of Learning	Tracking continuous, real-time growth.
Below / At / Above Labels	Progress Descriptors	Focusing entirely on What they CAN do.
Generic Comments	Narrative Explanation	Providing individualized, specific next steps.
High-Stakes Tests	Ongoing Check-ins	Using the adaptive SMART Tool to guide teacher decisions.

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How Teachers Map Your Child's Journey

A child is more than a test score. We use a 360° approach to understand their progress:



Observations

What the teacher sees happening in the classroom every day.

Products

The actual work produced, including classroom projects and our new low-stakes digital check-in, the SMART Tool.

Conversations

Discussing logic and thinking directly with the student.

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The New Language of Progress



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The New Language of Progress

Descriptor	"I can..."
Emerging	"I am starting to understand this new skill with a lot of teacher support."
Developing	"I'm using new techniques on my own but still like a bit of guidance."
Consolidating	"I can use what I've learned accurately and independently most of the time."
Proficient	"I know this well and can explain my reasoning clearly to others."
Exceeding	"I am applying my learning in creative ways to solve complex problems."

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Tracking Expectations Across the Calendar

A student's progress descriptor tells a different story depending on the season.



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Anatomy of Your Child's New eTap Report



Progress Bars

Clear visual color bands showing exactly where your child sits in specific strands like Word Recognition and Comprehension.

Teacher Narratives

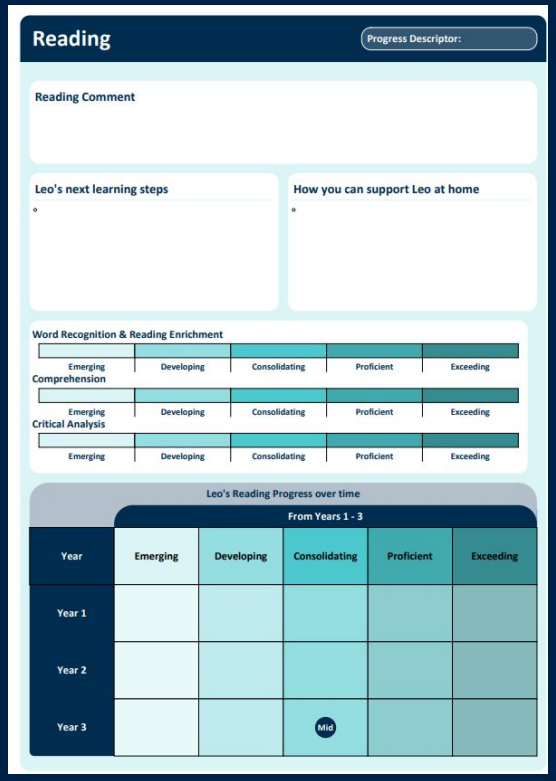
Specific comments outlining what your child can do, their next learning steps, and exact strategies to help at home.

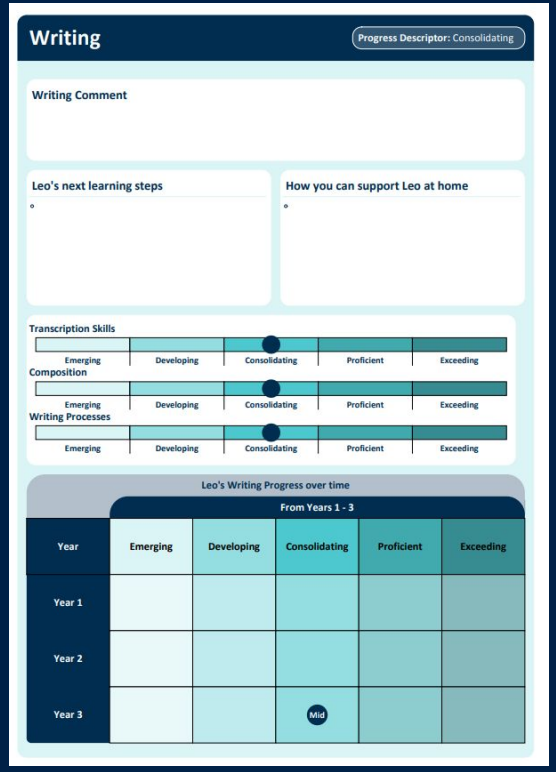
Progress Over Time

A historical grid tracking your child's multi-year journey through their current learning phase.

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Anatomy of Your Child's New eTap Report



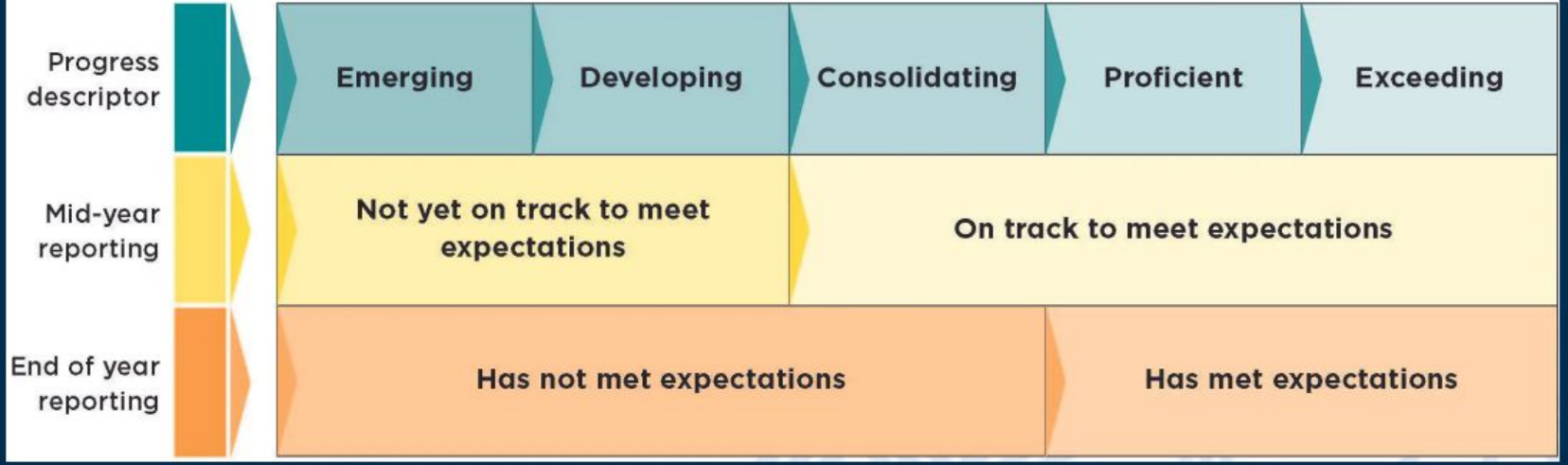




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Describing progress for mid and end of year reporting using five descriptors

The progress descriptors describe student progress across the school year. A student who has achieved proficiency is prepared for the next year of learning.



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Showing Up is the First Step to Success

Academic progress is directly tied to presence. Your new eTap report prominently features attendance data because consistent engagement is the foundation of the Navigator's Path. Every day counts.

67.5 days present out of 72 days



Present - 93.8%

Absent - 6.3%

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Empowering the Learning Journey at Home



Talk About Learning:
Ask specific questions like “What was a challenge you tackled today?” rather than the generic “How was school?”



Read for Joy:
Keep reading aloud together. Even older children benefit immensely from hearing rich, complex vocabulary.



Celebrate the Distance Traveled:
Use the eTap progress graph to celebrate the total growth over time, not just the final descriptor label. Use it to spark conversations with your teacher.

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ST MARY'S PAPAKURA

TOGETHER WE LEARN, WE PRAY, WE SERVE

Navigating the Future, Together.

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's learning journey. These national changes give us exciting new tools to map their success, but our commitment to your family remains constant.

Mid Year Reports to go home Monday 10th August.
Parent interviews Tuesday 11th August and Wednesday 12th August.

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