Interpreting end of year attainment descriptors and effort grades

Explaining attainment descriptors in Year 3

- In all subject areas there are four performance tiers:
 Emerging (well below the nationally expected performance)
 Developing (slightly below the nationally expected performance)
 Secure (performing at the year group nationally expected performance)
 Mastery (performing at a high level; beyond the year group nationally expected performance).
- To refine more precisely exactly how well pupils are performing the two categories at both ends of the performance spectrum are subdivided into two.
 Emerging B indicates the lowest possible performance for that particular year group.

Emerging A is a higher performance standard within the emerging category. **Mastery B** represents very high performance within any year group **Mastery A** is the higher of the two Mastery performance tiers.

Year 3	Assessment level	Comment in relation to the national average
Year 3	Year 3 Emerging B (3EB)	significantly below the nationally expected performance (broadly 18 months, or more, behind)
Year 3	Year 3 Emerging A (3EA)	well below the nationally expected performance for this age (broadly 12 months, or slightly more, behind)
Year 3	Year 3 Developing (3D)	slightly below the nationally expected performance for this age (broadly 6-9 months behind)
Year 3	Year 3 Secure (3S)	in line with nationally expected performance for this age
Year 3	Year 3 Mastery B (3MB)	well above the nationally expected performance for this age
Year 3	Year 3 Mastery A (3MA)	an outstanding grasp of all the year group objectives, with the ability to apply them with flair and creativity in a wide range of different contexts.

These are the end of year attainment performance tiers for Year 3

The performance tiers

Emerging B: Less than 25% of the end of year objectives met
Emerging A: 25% of the end of year objectives met
Developing: Approximately 50% of the end of year objectives met
Secure: Approximately 80% of the end of year objectives met
Mastery B: 100% of the end of year objectives met
Mastery A: An outstanding grasp of all the year group objectives, with the ability to apply them with flair and creativity in a wide range of different contexts.

A pupil can't be assessed 'outside their year group'.

Our new assessment system isn't a continuum. It is a discrete system based upon the underpinning concept of mastery. That means that Year 3 mastery A isn't followed by Year 4 emerging B. Year 4 emerging is not a progression from Year 3 mastery. At the start of Year 4 the pupil's baseline performance is Year 3 mastery A. During Year 4 the teacher assesses the pupil on the Year 4 objectives. A pupil doesn't have to achieve Year 3 mastery before moving up to Year 4 emerging - as Year 4 emerging isn't a higher performance standard, but a discrete measurement of progress within the Year 4 curriculum.

Effort grades

Attainment and effort are very different measures. The description for the four effort grades at Barnes are as follows:

Outstanding	 The pupil displays positive learning behaviour and exceptional commitment all, or virtually all, of the time. The pupil is inquistive to learn more, continually uses her initiative and shows a total commitment to self-improvement. The pupil reads very frequently and completes all, or virtually all, home learning assignments to the best of her ability.
Good	 The pupil constantly and consistently does her best. In general, the pupil is motivated to do well. She tries hard most of the time. Her learning behaviour is good, though it is not yet exceptional. The pupil shows an interest in learning; sometimes using her own initiative. She shows some interest in self-improvement. The pupil reads regularly and completes most home learning assignments reasonably well. The pupil usually does her best.
Satisfactory	 The pupil's learning behaviour and commitment to school learning and home learning are perfectly adequate, but no more. Her effort is not inadequate, as described below, but she rarely, or only infrequently, exhibits the more mature behaviours described above. The pupil sometimes does her best, but rarely 'pushes herself'
Requires improvement	 The pupil's expectations are not sufficiently high. Her learning behaviour inhibits her from making the progress she is capable of and she is likely to be underachieving. She can sometimes behave in ways that disrupt others. Home reading is infrequent and home learning assignments are often not completed, or completed to a low standard. The pupil rarely does her best.