

# SMART assessment

# Information for parents and whānau

## What is SMART?

SMART is a new assessment tool being introduced this year for schools and kura across New Zealand. It's designed for students in Years 3-10 and helps teachers understand where your child is in their learning and what they're ready to learn next. The results will also help ensure your child gets the support they need to thrive and will be shared with you so you know more about how your child is progressing.



Schools can choose to use SMART for assessments in reading, writing, maths, pānui, tuhituhi, and pāngarau during the school year. It's free for all schools and aligned with the new national curriculum and the questions are designed for their age group to cover what they have been learning in class.

## What happens during the assessment?

Your child completes the assessment at school, during normal class time. It takes around 30 to 45 minutes, depending on their year level, and the questions are designed for their age group. SMART is designed to be easy to use and to support the widest range of school and kura needs. If your child needs extra support (such as more time, larger text, or audio) their teacher can arrange this. The assessment can be completed online or on paper.

SMART results will be shared with parents so you can stay involved in your child's learning and understand the progress they are making across the year.

### What does SMART tell us?

SMART gives really rich information about how your child is learning and progressing, and is designed to support the new curriculum.

After each assessment, your child's teacher will have a clear picture of:

- What your child can do: the skills and practices they've shown they have
- Where they are in their learning: how they're progressing through the curriculum
- Their next steps: what they're ready to learn next.

This year, all schools are required to give you written reports at least twice a year about your child's progress and achievement.

SMART is one of the tools teachers can use to help build this picture. It provides useful assessment information, but it is only one source among many. Your child's teacher brings together classroom learning, conversations, observations, and other assessments to make an informed overall judgement about progress. If the SMART result differs from the teacher's judgement, that's okay. It's important for teachers and whānau to understand why there may be a difference and what it tells us about your child's learning. Your child's teacher will always bring together multiple sources of information to build the fullest picture of progress.

**Reading** Progress Descriptor: Consolidating

**Writing** Progress Descriptor: Consolidating

**Maths** Progress Descriptor: Consolidating

**Narrative:**  
Rachel is on track to meet end of year expectations. She is confident using her knowledge of number facts to carry out mental and written methods for addition, subtraction, and is working on this for multiplication, and division. Rachel is learning to measure length, mass and capacity accurately using standard units and tools and is developing her knowledge of other measurements such as perimeter and area.

**Rachel's next learning steps:**

- Identify how a number pattern is continued through adding or subtracting the same number to each consecutive term and describe this in words
- Find missing values in a number sentence using addition and subtraction e.g.  $4200 - \_\_ = 4001$
- Practice measuring the perimeter of polygons and the area of rectangles

**How you can support Rachel at home:**

- Make growing patterns with objects, drawings, or numbers (for example, "5, 7, 9..." or "3, 6, 12...")
- Notice and discuss patterns in the numbers in her times tables
- Weigh ingredients while cooking using grams and kilograms
- Use a ruler or tape measure to measure items in metres and centimetres around the house

**Assessment results:**  
SMART Consolidating (Score 64%)  
This assessment result contributes to the overall descriptor of progress and achievement for this child | mokopuna.

**Attendance:**  
96% of days attended

Topic	Emerging	Developing	Consolidating	Proficient	Exceeding
Number			●		
Algebra		●			
Measurement			●		
Geometry			●		
Statistics				●	
Probability - not taught at year 4					

**Maths - Rachel Smith, Mid-year report**

Year	Emerging	Developing	Consolidating	Proficient	Exceeding
Year 1			mid year	end year	
Year 2		mid year	end year		
Year 3			mid year	end year	
Year 4			mid year		

An example of how these elements may appear in your child's report. Please visit the Parent portal on [education.govt.nz](http://education.govt.nz) to see a high quality pdf.

**From 2027, SMART becomes adaptive:** the questions will adjust in real time based on your child's answers, getting easier or harder to match their level. This means the assessment gives a more precise picture of where your child is at, not too easy, not too hard.

## Is my child's information safe?

Yes. The Ministry of Education is the kaitiaki (guardian) of all student data in SMART. Your child's information is securely stored in New Zealand and is used only to support their learning.

## How can I support my child's learning at home?

You don't need to prepare your child for a SMART assessment, it's designed to reflect what they're learning in class. But there are always ways to support learning at home:

- Talk with your child about what they're learning at school
- Look for everyday opportunities to practise skills (like reading together, measuring while cooking, talking about stories)
- Ask your child's teacher if you'd like more ideas for home support
- Head to the Parent Portal for resources and a maths practice tool if you want to help at home

## Does my child's school have to use SMART?

No. Schools and kura can choose the tools they use to understand children's learning and progress. SMART is one option that supports the refreshed curriculum by giving teachers

clear, consistent information. Your child's school might use SMART on its own or alongside other ways of gathering progress information. If you'd like to know more about how your school approaches assessment, the best place to start is by talking with your child's teacher.

## When will SMART assessments happen?

Schools will use SMART during two set assessment windows each year. In 2026, these are:


- Term 2: 20 April – 22 May
- Term 4: 12 October – 13 November

There are two assessment windows each year so that teachers, schools, and whānau can see how your child is progressing over time. The first assessment shows where your child is at, and the second shows how far they've come. Your child's school will let you know when assessments are coming up. SMART launches for all schools from March 2026.

## Questions?

If you have questions about SMART or your child's results, talk to your child's teacher or school. They can explain what the results mean and how they're being used to support your child's learning.

For more information, visit the [SMART page on the Parent Portal](#).



**The new parent portal  
on [education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz) has  
more information and  
resources about supporting  
your child's learning**

[www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal](https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal)