

**Holy Family Primary School
GOWRIE**



**Schedule for Early Number
Assessment (SENA)
TESTING**

Agreed Practice



SENA Testing Agreed Practice

Related Policies:

Nil

Policy

What is Schedule for Early Number Assessment?

Schedule for Early Number Assessment (SENA) is a diagnostic tool designed for use within The Learning Framework in Number, from the Count Me In Too Project (CMIT). At Holy Family SENAs 1 and SENAs 2 are used as one form of assessment, complementing the many other forms of Mathematics assessment as listed in our Mathematics Curriculum Document.

The CMIT Learning Framework in Number, of which SENAs are an important part, outlines how students move from using naive strategies to increasingly sophisticated strategies in order to solve number problems. This framework can be used to sequence instruction. (Adapted from the 2009 CMIT Research Report).

SENA has been designed to give teachers an opportunity to closely observe the strategies a student is using to solve number problems. It provides teachers with some information about the strategies students are using in Mathematics. However, SENAs only focus on the Number Strand.

The Learning Framework in Number provides teachers with an explicit framework of mathematical strategies students are likely to use in early Number, showing increasing levels of sophistication in a range of exemplary tasks that can be used for assessment and teaching purposes.

The assessment focuses on identifying the upper limits of each student's knowledge and strategies, rather than on whether the response is correct or incorrect.

By observing students' strategies and relating these to the Learning Framework, teachers are able to develop a richer interpretation of students' thinking. Teachers are also able to see clear directions for programming students' learning and planning appropriate teaching activities to assist students' Number development.

SENA testing assists teachers to broaden their knowledge of how students learn Mathematics by focussing on the strategies students use to solve arithmetic tasks. (Adapted from the 2009 CMIT Research Report).

Procedures

The process of SENA Testing at Holy Family is to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

Kindergarten:

All Kindergarten students will have a SENA 1 test administered during Term 1 of the Kindergarten school year.

During this first SENA test, student information will be recorded at the top of the testing sheet. The date and observations made by the teacher during the test are to be recorded in a consistent colour and in as much detail as possible. (For example: All observations are written in black pen).

Questions in the SENA tests will be highlighted by the teacher only when the student has achieved this skill.

Teachers are then required to 'plot' each student onto an Individual Analysis Sheet.

The plotting of each student will provide the teacher with a starting point for moving the student along the CMIT Learning Framework.

The information provided by SENA 1 will be used to guide Mathematics planning in the Number strand and the grouping of students as the teaching of Mathematics is differentiated.

Towards the end of Kindergarten, SENA 1 is to be repeated for all students using the same recording sheet as the initial test was done. The date and observations are recorded in a different, yet consistent colour (For example: green pen).

Any student who has completed all requirements for SENA 1 will have the SENA 2 test administered.

The recording sheet and the individual analysis sheet are then filed; ready to be handed on to the Year 1 team.

Kindergarten SENA results are to be submitted to the CEO according to CEO instructions (usually in May and November).

Kindergarten SENA results are to be recorded on the Kindergarten Student Development Record (Tracking Sheet) and in the Test Results folder on the school server's "T" Drive.

Students in Year 1 - Year 6:

At the beginning of each year, teachers access each child's SENA recording sheet and analysis forms from the student files handed on from the previous teacher. Teachers

are asked to carefully read the last observations recorded by the previous teacher of that child.

The observations and plotting of each student by the previous teacher provides a starting point for administering another SENA test, if required. It will be required unless the student has completed all the requirements of both SENA1 and SENA 2.

SENA 2 will only be administered when a student has completed **all** requirements of SENA 1.

Teachers are required to administer a SENA test during Week 4 or 5 in Term 1 for all students still on the continuum.

The same SENA recording sheet used in the previous year is to continue being used. The teacher needs to date and record observations in a colour that has not been previously been used on that recording sheet. Note that questions should be highlighted or ticked off when the student has answered a question correctly with efficient strategies observed.

Teachers are then required to 'plot' each student onto their Individual Analysis Sheet which is in their file (or class folder).

The plotting of each student will provide the teacher with information to move the student further along the CMIT Learning Framework.

The date the SENA testing was carried out, is to be recorded on each Student Tracking Sheet and signed by the teacher.

The information provided by SENA will be used to guide Mathematics planning in the Number strand and enable the grouping of students as the teaching of Mathematics is differentiated.

SENA testing is administered again at during Week 2 and 3 of Term 3 for every student until they have satisfied the requirements of SENA 2.

Teachers may administer SENA testing at any time throughout the year when they feel it would be useful to further inform their planning and programming.

When a new student arrives at Holy Family, teachers are to use their professional judgment regarding where they think a child may be along the continuum and administer SENA 1 or SENA 2 as appropriate.

References

Nil

Forms

Nil

Approved by:	Holy Family School Staff
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School Contact Officer:	Anne-Marie Marek