

# Five progress descriptors

For use in 2026 onwards

Progress Descriptor	Indicators for Teachers	Descriptions for Parents and Whānau
<b>1 Emerging</b> Students require support to meet curriculum expectations for their year level and/or goals as described in their personalised learning plan.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand some concepts and strategies for learning with significant guidance and assistance.</li> <li>Can make some connections and apply knowledge with significant guidance and assistance.</li> <li>Make progress in line with goals described in their personalised learning plan, with significant support</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is beginning to understand some learning ideas for their year level with a lot of support.</li> <li>Can sometimes use knowledge they've learned, but usually needs help to do so.</li> <li>Is making some progress in ways that are meaningful and aligned to their strengths and needs, with significant support.</li> </ul>
<b>2 Developing</b> Students are making some progress towards curriculum expectations for their year level.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand concepts and strategies for learning with some guidance.</li> <li>Can learn facts and apply knowledge, in familiar contexts with some support.</li> <li>Are making progress with new knowledge towards meeting year level expectations or are progressing with support to accelerate learning towards expectations for their year level.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is starting to understand key ideas, often with some support.</li> <li>Can remember facts and use what they've learned in familiar situations, with a bit of help.</li> <li>With the right support, your child is making progress towards the expectation for their year level.</li> </ul>
<b>3 Consolidating</b> Students are meeting many curriculum expectations for their year level and are steadily strengthening their understanding across learning areas.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply familiar strategies to reinforce their learning with increasing independence.</li> <li>Often recall and use knowledge with growing confidence.</li> <li>Are beginning to transfer knowledge to new contexts.</li> <li>Can reflect on and explain their ideas clearly to express what they could do better.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is learning to use helpful techniques on their own to support their learning.</li> <li>Is getting better at remembering and using what they have learned.</li> <li>Is starting to use what they know in new and different situations.</li> <li>Can share their ideas and is beginning to talk about what they would do better.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Proficient</b> Students are meeting curriculum expectations for their year level.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can consistently apply learning strategies confidently, accurately and independently.</li> <li>Can independently use their knowledge in a variety of situations.</li> <li>Can often apply knowledge to new contexts.</li> <li>Can reflect on and explain their ideas clearly, explain their reasoning and apply this to improve their learning.</li> <li>Often shares their ideas to grow and build knowledge.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can use helpful learning techniques on their own and knows how to use them well.</li> <li>Can use what they've learned in different situations without help.</li> <li>Can often use what they know in new situations.</li> <li>Can share their thoughts clearly and explain their reasoning.</li> <li>Often shares their ideas to build knowledge.</li> </ul>
<b>5 Exceeding</b> Students are exceeding curriculum expectations for their year level.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use higher level thinking strategies to reflect on their learning.</li> <li>Consistently connect ideas and concepts across different contexts.</li> <li>Deepen their ideas, thinking and understanding.</li> <li>Can use their learning in purposeful and innovative ways to make sense of complex ideas.</li> <li>Consistently reflects on ideas to test, challenge and extend their knowledge.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows advanced thinking by understanding tricky ideas, solving problems, making connections, and explaining their thinking clearly.</li> <li>Can link what they've learned in one area or situation to another.</li> <li>Can build on their ideas and show deeper understanding.</li> <li>Can use what they've learned in thoughtful and creative ways to understand more challenging ideas.</li> <li>Tests and challenges ideas to create deeper knowledge.</li> </ul>