

## Standards-Referenced Assessment Information for Parents

*This information about standards-referenced assessment outlines how standards are used in student reporting at Catholic Schools Broken Bay.*

### **What is standards-referenced assessment?**

*“Standards-referenced assessment refers to the process of interpreting information about student learning in relation to standards. It is used to compare student performance to a standard with objective criteria rather than to the performance of other students. Standards-referenced assessment can provide meaningful feedback about student achievement and support consistent assessment and reporting” ([NESA Assessment Principles](#)).*

A student’s performance is compared to an objective standard, rather than against the performance of other students.

### **How do standards, assessment and grades connect?**

The syllabus sets the standards by describing what a student is expected to know, understand and be able to do at each stage of learning. Teachers use these standards to assess a student’s learning based on the content taught during the reporting period. The Common Grade Scale is then used to report how well a student has achieved these standards.

### **How does CSBB use standards-referenced assessment?**

Like all schools in NSW, CSBB uses standards-referenced assessment to assess and report on student learning from Kindergarten to Year 12. This means a student’s achievement is measured against a standard rather than compared to other students.

### **How are standards used during student reporting?**

The syllabus defines the standards as what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do at each stage of learning. Teachers use these standards to assess and report how well a student has demonstrated this learning in relation to the content taught during the reporting period. A student’s report shows their achievement against these standards.

### **What is the difference between standards-referenced and norm-referenced assessment?**

In NSW schools, including CSBB schools, student achievement is reported using standards-referenced assessment. This means a student’s learning is measured against the standards, showing what they know, understand, and can do. Norm-referenced assessment compares a student’s performance to that of other students. Results are based on how a student performs in relation to their peers, rather than against a standard. Norm-referenced assessment is not used for student reporting in NSW schools.