

# Assessment for learning

## Principles and key characteristics of assessment for learning

### Principles

Assessment for learning is founded on the following ten principles.

Assessment for learning:

- is part of effective planning
- focuses on how students learn
- is central to classroom practice
- is a key professional skill
- is sensitive and constructive
- fosters motivation
- promotes understanding of goals and criteria
- helps learners know how to improve
- develops the capacity for self-assessment [and peer assessment]
- recognises all educational achievement.

(Assessment Reform Group, 2002, *Assessment for learning: 10 principles*)

### Key characteristics

The Assessment Reform Group identified seven key characteristics of assessment for learning.

- It is embedded in a view of teaching and learning of which it is an essential part.
- It involves sharing learning goals with learners.
- It aims to help pupils to know and to recognise the standards for which they are aiming.
- It involves pupils in self-assessment [and peer assessment].
- It provides feedback that leads to pupils recognising their next steps and how to take them.
- It is underpinned by the confidence that every student can improve.
- It involves both teacher and pupils reviewing and reflecting on assessment data.

(Assessment Reform Group, 1999, *Assessment for Learning*)