

Symbol marking

A way of making our marking more concise and easier to understand is by using symbols or abbreviations to indicate a statement.

Coded banks of statements can be created by an individual teacher or with colleagues across the school. In recent years, school marking policies often include a 'marking code'. The symbols can be as detailed as you would like and can easily be made subject-specific. You can see an example of this in the table below. Please note that this is one example, rather than a recommended set of codes.

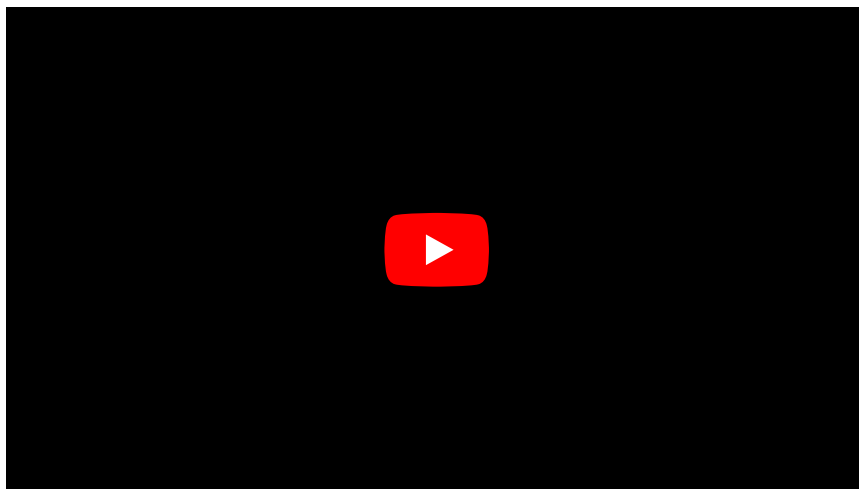
If using symbol marking, it is important that they are shared and that you know that your pupils understand the codes. Displaying them in the classroom and in pupil books is highly effective.

| Code | Definition |
|------|---------------------------|
| AP | Achievement Point |
| BP | Behaviour Point |
| OA | Objective achieved |
| PA | Objective partly achieved |
| NA | Objective not achieved |
| Sp | Spelling mistake |
| // | New paragraph needed |
| WND | Word not needed |
| GD | Good description |
| ^ | Missing word |
| P | Punctuation needed |

Research studies have found that coded feedback is as effective as written feedback, as long as pupils understand the feedback. The use of a coded feedback can significantly reduce the time taken to provide written feedback for teachers when familiarity with the marking code is established.

Hear from fellow teachers as they discuss how they have used symbol marking effectively in their school.

Early years



Direct Link: [Symbol marking Early Years](#)

Transcript: [Symbol marking Early Years](#)

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Primary



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Secondary



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Over to you!

Reflect on your answers to the following questions and record your thoughts in the [notes tab](#) (or your own notebook).

If you already have a marking code or symbol marking implemented into your school, reflect on your application of it into your everyday practice. How is it supporting and developing your pupils' ability to respond to feedback? What impact is it having on your marking workload?

If your school has not implemented a form of symbol marking into their assessment and feedback policy, talk to your mentor about the benefits shared by fellow teachers in this session.