

To: Headteachers of Primary and Special Schools (Primary), Short Stay Schools (Primary), and Support Services

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Dear Colleague

Assessment update:

- **Moderation for KS2.**
- **Reminders about KS2 tests, including Access Arrangements**
- **Training and non-statutory information and moderation opportunities for KS1.**

This letter is to confirm Primary Assessment requirements, including statutory monitoring and moderation requirements, for 2023/2024 and non-statutory information and moderation opportunities.

You may wish to pass the relevant information on to your Y2 and Y6 teachers.

Headline information

STA have confirmed that all existing statutory, EYFS, key stage 1 (phonics) and key stage 2 (KS2) assessments go ahead in 2023/24, following their usual timetable.

This includes the:

- submission of EYFSP data
- end of KS2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- reception baseline assessment
- phonics screening check
- year 4 multiplication tables check
- statutory trialling

Science sampling tests will no longer take place.

Attached are the 2023-2024 Assessment Calendars which contain all the key dates for assessment across all Key Stages and a handy Assessment Deadline checklist with key deadlines arranged by month.

End of statutory KS1 Assessments in 2023/24

The DfE have confirmed that end of KS1 assessments have become non-statutory from the 2023/24 academic year onwards, and that from 2027/28, RBA will take the basis for progress measures. DfE have released non-statutory guidance for KS1 Teacher Assessment and KS1 Tests, which can be found here:

[National Curriculum Assessments: optional KS1 tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-curriculum-assessments-optional-ks1-tests)

This means that schools no longer have to:

- assess pupils using the SATs tests
- form teacher assessment using the TAF
- take part in statutory moderation visits from the LA
- report end of KS1 data to parents or the LA

STA will continue to create a suite of optional test materials for schools to use if they wish to. The purpose of these materials is to support schools to measure pupil achievement and identify children who may need additional support as they move into KS2. These will be developed in line with previous test materials and will automatically be sent to schools unless a school chooses to opt out using the PAG. Schools can also continue to use the Teacher Assessment Framework (TAF) to support their judgements.

Many schools still wish to assess children at the end of KS1 and our advice to schools is to consider what they intend to do and when, so they have adequate time to prepare.

To support schools moving forward with KS1 assessment, we have completely updated our course for Y2 teachers. There will be opportunities to investigate the Y2 curriculum and link this to high quality planning opportunities. We will also consider what effective assessment strategies look like at the end of KS, 1 and how to use this information to inform next steps in teaching. As always, there will be the opportunity to share best practice with colleagues and gather practical ideas to take away.

Further details are available here:

[Effective Assessment Strategies to support end of KS1 assessment - life after SATS](#)

Although data submission is no longer statutory, we will be offering to collect KS1 Teacher Assessment data in early July. This will then be used to inform statistics within the LSIP released to schools in the autumn term. Many schools wish to have an overview of their KS1 data in comparison to other Lancashire schools to support their own school self-evaluation. Further details will be released closer to the summer term.

KS1 Moderation

The LA will be offering two different optional moderation sessions where teachers can receive support towards making their end of year judgements.

Firstly, teachers can attend a full day training session where we will explore reading, writing and maths, discussing best practice and having the opportunity to moderate sample of work that teachers bring with them for all three subjects.



Secondly, we will also offer writing moderation drop-in sessions. These will give teachers the opportunity to meet with an experienced moderator to discuss their children's work and reach a judgement about the standard the child is working at.

Further details of both moderation opportunities will be released in due course.

Primary Data from 2022/2023

Headline data can be found for the academic year 2023 at the following link:

[Key stage 2 attainment 2023: national headlines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-2-attainment-2023-national-headlines)

Key Stage1 and phonics data has also been released and can be accessed here:

[Statistics: key stage 1 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-1-phonics)

There are some key messages about the use of this data in Primary Accountability, on pages 6-8, including how Ofsted will use the information.

[Primary school accountability in 2023: technical guide \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/primary-school-accountability-in-2023-technical-guide)

KS2 (writing) Moderation

The requirements and timescales for moderation of KS2 are broadly similar to those in 2023. Teacher Assessment guidance has now been released, and the moderation window is confirmed to run from Monday 3 June to Friday 28 June 2024 for KS2.

At KS2, 25%+ of schools are to be moderated. The DfE will be choosing some of the schools that make up this percentage, with the LA supplementing the list of schools to be moderated. As before, moderation will be completed by a visit to the school, with the moderator choosing the pupils whose assessments are to be moderated.

[2024 key stage 2 assessment and reporting arrangements \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/2024-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements)

[Key stage 2 teacher assessment guidance 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/key-stage-2-teacher-assessment-guidance-2024)

Teacher Assessment Frameworks

The English writing frameworks remain unchanged for the 2023/24 academic year.

The English reading, mathematics and science frameworks were modified for use from the 2018/19 academic year onwards.

The "Teacher Assessment Frameworks", "Pre-Key Stage Standards" and exemplification can be found here:

KS2 teacher assessment frameworks

[Pre-key stage 2 standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/pre-key-stage-2-standards)

We would advise that teachers and senior leadership teams consider the statements within the standards, together with the key principles within the documents preceding each subject, and think about how they will make judgements, how the SLT will



moderate judgements before data submission, and how you can evidence the judgements if your school is moderated.

Pupils working below the test standard.

A small percentage of the pupils will not have completed the relevant programme of study when they have reached the appropriate chronological age. As a result, these pupils will be working below the standard of both the national curriculum tests and the teacher assessment frameworks. We advise that, firstly, teachers look at the example tests to help them decide whether a pupil should sit the test or not.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials>

For those pupils for whom it may be appropriate, teachers will need to consider the pre-key stage standards, or the **Engagement Model**. The pre-key stage standards are to be used for assessing pupils engaged in subject-specific study, who are working below the standard of national curriculum assessments. The ‘pupil can’ statements have been revised to ensure they appropriately represent the key aspects of each subject, allow for progression towards the national curriculum, and give a better reflection of classroom practice.

In 2023/2024, schools must use the **Engagement Model** for statutory assessment of pupils not engaged in subject-specific study at the end of key stage 2. It should be used to assess pupils’ learning regularly throughout the year, enabling these pupils’ achievements and progress to be measured over time. Schools **must** report to STA which pupils have been assessed using the Engagement Model when the pupil is at the end of KS2. This is so the DfE is aware of how many pupils are not engaged in subject-specific study and where they are being educated.

Further information for this can be found here:

[The engagement model - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/engagement-model)

Submission dates for KS2 teacher assessment and moderation

As mentioned at the start of this letter, the submission dates for teacher assessment and the timing of the moderation window are like previous years. The following table sets out the key dates to consider. **These are statutory dates that must be adhered to:**

Friday 17 May	Local authorities begin informing schools if they will receive an external moderation visit for TA.
Monday 3 June to Friday 28 June	Local authorities undertake external moderation of KS2 English writing TA.
Friday 28 June	Deadline to submit KS2 TA data on the PAG.



The timetables and dates above raise several potential issues which you may wish to consider including:

- The window for moderation of KS2 is quite short.
- Schools may be monitored or moderated for more than one key stage in any given year. (KS1 phonics monitoring and KS2 moderation) This is more likely if the school is receiving additional support from the LA (of which the school would be aware already) but can happen on other occasions particularly as the DfE is choosing a proportion of schools.
- Schools will also have to organise phonics screening in June.

Access Arrangements

Our annual Access Arrangements training has been organised for January and February for both Teachers and Headteachers. Although some aspects have been removed, Access Arrangements must still be used appropriately, so we would encourage attendance. The KS2 ARA booklets can be accessed via this link.

[National curriculum assessments: key stage 2 tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-tests)

Sessions can be booked here:

½ day sessions:

[Access Arrangements 2024 - 1/2 Day Sessions](#)

Headteacher sessions (kept as online sessions for ease of access):

[Access Arrangements 2024 - Breakfast Briefings](#)

KS2 Training

Sessions are available for Year 6 colleagues, starting in November and running until the end of January. Both in person and online sessions are available. The sessions will consider the statutory guidance for Year 6 but will also focus on high quality writing opportunities and effective assessment strategies to use throughout the year.

Year 6 Update Sessions:

[Year 6 Sessions](#)

Additionally

Despite the removal of statutory external moderation of the EYFSP, moderation is still good practice. The EYFSP handbook states:

'Moderation of EYFS profile assessments should be a collaborative process with colleagues. This supports the quality assurance of teacher assessment judgements and provides a valuable opportunity for professional development.... Schools may wish to work together so that teachers can share experiences and develop their assessment skills.' (EYFSP Handbook October 2023)

As such, we have kept the annual EYFS updates in Spring which include an opportunity to look at work samples and discuss next steps and we will continue a series of 'Cluster type' moderation sessions in the summer.



Details of all of these can be found as indicated below:
 Assessment: EYFS Updates to Support End of Year Judgements for Reception
 (2023/2024 Update)

March 2024

[EYFS Update Sessions](#)

EYFSP- Cluster Moderation for End of Year Judgements

May and June 2024

[EYFSP Moderation Sessions](#)

Administering the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

[Phonics Screening Check Training](#)

More information and booking details for the above courses can be found by following the links. Further Assessment courses can be viewed at:

[Assessment Courses](#)

IDSR and LSIP

This year's LSIPs were updated on Rose earlier this term with attainment data added to the Pupil Characteristics section. The Closing the Gap reports will be added by the end of October. Schools can still request these if they wish to purchase them.

Primary IDSR has now been released for schools and is available online. During November we have Understanding Data courses running across the authority to support schools with interpreting and analysing their school information. Details here:

[Understanding Data course details](#)

Individual consultancies are also available if schools prefer a bespoke discussion.

If you have any general queries please do not hesitate to contact the Professional Support Team Helpdesk on 01772 531555 or, alternatively, email

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Yours sincerely

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