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

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Our ref: LEIS/MT/EW/CM/JB
Date: 21 October 2026

Dear Colleague,

Assessment Update:

Statutory Assessment updates including Access Arrangements and Moderation Opportunities.

Training and non-statutory information and moderation opportunities for KS1.

This letter is to provide details on Primary Assessment requirements, including statutory monitoring and moderation requirements, for 2026/27 and non-statutory information and moderation opportunities.

You may wish to pass the relevant information on to your EYFS, 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 2026/27, 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

The 2026/27 Assessment Calendars are now ready to be sent to schools and are attached to this letter. These contain the key dates for assessment across all Key Stages and a handy Assessment Deadline checklist with key information arranged by month.

Primary Data from 2025/26
Headline data can be found for the academic year 2025/26 at the following link: Key Stage 2 Attainment: National Headlines - Academic Year 2025/2026

National phonics headline data has now been released and is available on this link: Phonics screening check attainment - GOV.UK

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. There is also guidance on the return of progress measures for 2025/26 data that school will need to be aware of and plan for. Primary school accountability in 2026: technical guide

KS2 (Writing) Moderation
The requirements and timescales for moderation of KS2 are broadly similar to those in 2026. Teacher Assessment guidance has now been released, and the moderation window is confirmed to run from **07 June to 29 June 2027** 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.

Academies
Academies have the option to select the Local Authority that they wish to conduct their statutory KS2 monitoring and moderation procedures. They must have a written agreement in place with that Local Authority by **08 January 2027**. Academies who choose not to use their non-geographic Local Authority must inform STA via the NCA Portal. Forms are available on the NCA Portal from **2 November 2026**.

2027 key stage 2 assessment and reporting arrangements
Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment Guidance 2027

Teacher Assessment Frameworks
The English writing frameworks remain unchanged for the 2026/27 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)

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, 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.

National curriculum assessments: past test 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 2026/27, 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)

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:

14 May	Local authorities begin informing schools if they will receive an external moderation visit for English writing TA
7 - 29 June	Local authorities undertake external moderation of KS2 English writing TA
23 June	Soft deadline for headteachers to submit KS2 TA data
29 June	Deadline for headteachers to submit KS2 TA data on the NCA Portal

Schools may need to plan for and manage statutory phonics monitoring and statutory KS2 writing moderation in June as they may be monitored or moderated for more than one key stage in any given year.

Access Arrangements
Our annual Access Arrangements training has been organised for January and February for both Teachers and Headteachers. Access Arrangements must still be used appropriately, so we would encourage attendance at one of the sessions. There are some significant changes to Access Arrangements this year.

The Access Arrangements guidance can be found here 2027 key stage 2 access arrangements guidance.

The KS2 ARA booklets can be accessed via this link.
National curriculum assessments: key stage 2 tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Sessions can be booked here:
ASS132 Access Arrangements for the End of Key Stage 2: Statutory Assessments in 2027 (half day sessions)

Headteacher sessions (kept as online sessions for ease of access):
ASS133 Access Arrangements for the End of Key Stage 2: Statutory Assessments in 2027 Breakfast Briefings for Experienced Headteacher

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 ensuring there are sufficient writing opportunities and how to structure non-fiction writing to support the EXS standard in the TAF.

Sessions can be booked here:
ASS184 Year 6 - Understanding the Statutory Assessment Procedures - Effective Preparation for SATs

EYFS
There are significant changes to the publication of EYFSP data from 2025/26. Details below are from the EYFSP Handbook.

EYFSP data submitted from the summer term 2026 onwards will be available via Department for Education Sign-in from the end of the 2026 autumn term.

Ofsted will also have access to the same school level EYFSP data that is available in ASP. As stated above, this will apply to EYFSP data submitted from the summer term in 2026 onwards and therefore will feature in Ofsted's inspection data summary report (IDSR) from the end of the 2026 autumn term.

EYFSP data will be used as a starting point for conversations during inspection, including how schools use the data to support transitions from reception into key stage 1. Ofsted will not make gradings solely using EYFSP data.

Due to these changes in the publication of EYFSP data, schools may wish to review their moderation arrangements to ensure the accuracy of their judgements.

We have re-written and updated the Spring sessions which will have a greater focus on identifying where children are working at and then discussing practical next steps that will move children on to achieving the ELGs.

The summer moderation sessions will continue with a series of 'Cluster type' moderation sessions in the summer where we share and discuss evidence for the ELGs and have the opportunity to discuss and moderate children's achievements.

Details of all of these can be found as indicated below:

March 2027 - ASS150 - EYFS Mid-Year Moderation - Planning for effective outcomes in EYFS

June 2027 - ASS121 Early Years Moderation Meeting to Support End of Year Judgements
These sessions will focus on Speaking, Gross Motor and The Natural World

We will also be running our popular Phonics Screening check courses to support staff in administering the check. These will explain the statutory guidance and give teachers support in quality teaching of phonics.

April and May 2027 - ASS174 Administering the Phonics Screening Check

More information and booking details for the above courses can be found by following the links.

Further Assessment courses can be viewed here: Assessment Courses

IDSR and LSIP
We are very pleased to announce that attainment sections of the LSIPs and Governor LSIPs are now updated on ROSE along with Closing the Gap reports. Schools can still request these if they wish to purchase them.

To support schools in understanding their data we have a selection of courses running.

PIV410 Data Informed Leadership – this full day course analyses both LSIP and IDSR to provide a full understanding of both documents and how to use these to explain the school context and identify further areas of development.

PIV410 - Data-Informed Leadership: Navigating IDSR and LSIP to explain your School Context (Autumn and Spring Term)

PIV410 - Data-Informed Leadership: Navigating IDSR and LSIP to explain your School Context (Summer Term)

ASS114 Understanding Primary School Data – this half day session examines the attainment and progress sections of LSIP. IDSR and ASP to help school leaders fully understanding the data and use this to identify strengths and areas for further development. Understanding Primary School Data 2025-2026

ASS114 - Understanding Primary School Data 2025 (A guide to the 2025/2026 data, The IDSR, ASP, LSIP)

Bespoke sessions can also be arranged in school for Headteachers, Senior Leadership Teams and Governors.

Please contact Mike Thompson (Mike.Thompson@lancashire.gov.uk) or Elaine Williams (Elaine.Williams@lancashire.gov.uk) to arrange a session.

Optional KS1 Assessments in 2026/27
KS1 assessment continues to be non-statutory. DfE have released non-statutory guidance for KS1 2026/27 Teacher Assessment, which can be found here:

Optional Key Stage 1 Teacher Asessment Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

STA are continuing to create a suite of optional test materials for schools to use if they wish. 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. The test materials will **not** be sent to schools automatically; however, they can be downloaded **from 4 May 2027** on the NCA Portal. Schools can also continue to use the Teacher Assessment Framework (TAF) to support their judgements.

To support schools moving forward with KS1 assessment, we have rewritten and updated our CPD for Y2 teachers. There will be opportunities to discuss strategies to develop effective writing outcomes using the moderator training materials that were produced for KS1 moderators and 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:
ASS103 - Effective Assessment for End of Key Stage 1: Life after SATS

Although data submission is no longer statutory, we will, again, be offering to collect KS1 Teacher Assessment data by 9 July 2027. This will then be used to inform statistics within the LSIP released to schools in the Autumn 2027 term. This offer was taken up by a significant number of schools this year as 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 information around how to participate will be released in the summer term.

KS1 Moderation
The Assessment Support Team 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 a sample of work that teachers bring with them for all three subjects.

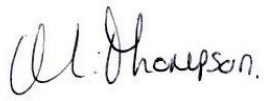
Secondly, we will also offer writing moderation half day sessions, running in February/March and again at the end of the academic year. These will give teachers the opportunity to discuss their children's work and reach a judgement about the standard the child is working at alongside other teachers and experienced KS1 moderators.

Further details of all KS1 moderation opportunities are available here:
ASS160 KS1 Mid-Year Moderation - Supporting Teacher Judgements

ASS801 End of Key Stage 1 moderation discussions
ASS185 Year 2 - Making and Moderating Judgements to Support Optional End of KS1 Assessment

If you have any general queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Professional Support Team Helpdesk on 01772 531555 or, alternatively, email Mike.Thompson@lancashire.gov.uk or Elaine.Williams@lancashire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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