2023/24 - Key Changes to Primary Assessment

This document is intended to highlight some of the key changes in primary assessments for the coming academic year. Please see the individual assessment factsheets for more information about each.

EYFSP - Reception

2023/24 will be the third year of the 'new' framework for EYFSP assessments. No changes to the framework are projected and it remains statutory for all school. Submission via the LA remains statutory but there will be no external moderation by the LA.

LA will load results from schools into Nexus as part of their statutory duty to submit to the DfE on the school's behalf.

Since the framework will be the same as 2021/22 and 2022/23 the year on year trend will reach 3 years once 2024 is available.

Phonics - Year 1 (and 2)

There will be a summer check for all Year 1 pupils. Additionally, any year 2 pupil failing to pass the check in June 2023 as a year 1 pupil must take the check again in June 2024 during the same window.

LA will load results from schools into Nexus as part of their statutory duty to submit to the DfE on the school's behalf. In 2024 the assessment period will commence on 10th June (with timetable variation week commencing 17th June).

Key Stage 1 - Year 2

Key Stage 1 is no longer statutory.

DfE have stated that administration of KS1 tests is recommended but optional for schools in 2024. The Department are to offer a bank of test from previous years to allow schools to do this. The school can use these tests internally to come to a judgement on the current positions of pupils within the cohort.

There will clearly be no moderation of any assessments that schools choose to undertake (except as a local measure in some LAs).

Nexus will continue to accept KS1 assessments if the LA opts to make the facility available to their schools, and their schools choose to make a submission to the LA.

Pupils in the 2024 Year 2 cohort already have their KS2 progress measures start point in place, having been the first year group to undertake the Reception Baseline Assessment.

Schools opting to administer the tests should do so during the month of May.

Key Stage 2 - Year 6

KS2 will continue in a similar manner to 2022/23 arrangements. There will be tests in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling to feature alongside Reading and Maths. The SATS tests will be returned direct to the DfE/STA for marking by the schools without coming to the LA, having been undertaken from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May inclusive (with 20th to 23rd May as the timetable variation period).

Writing will be teacher assessed and the results of this teacher assessment will be submitted by schools (or the LA where there is an agreement to do so) via the Primary Assessment Gateway.

The Engagement Model remains statutory for all schools to assess pupils who are below the standards of the tests.

When KS2 results are released to schools and LA by the DfE (9th July 2024) that will be via Primary Assessment Gateway. All LA are encouraged to load in the KS2 results into Nexus as quickly as possible.

In 2024 KS2 results will be published in KS2 performance tables once again. In addition, accountability measures will be published at school level and shared securely with primary schools, academy trusts, LA and Ofsted.

Multiplication Table Check - Year 4

The Multiplication Table Check for year 4 pupils remains statutory and will be undertaken in June during the two week period starting 3rd June 2024. Pupils undertake the check online and results go direct to DfE/STA. Schools will receive a CTF file containing their pupil's results that can be loaded into their school MIS. *Nexus is also able to accept this file if LA collect them from schools. NCER will – eventually – receive the MTC National Pupil Database file from DfE, but this is unlikely to be before well into the Autumn term. LA and Schools wanting early comparisons should consider participating in LA led collections.*

Reception Baseline Assessment (not loaded to Nexus)

As in previous years, schools must complete the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) for each pupil joining Reception within 6 weeks. This is a statutory assessment and will be the starting point for those pupils KS2 progress measures in 6 years' time. Schools will receive a general statement about the pupil's results in the assessment, but no specific data.

Key Stage 1-2 Progress Measures 2023/24 and 2024/25

Due to the pandemic, pupils in year 2 in 2019/20 and during 2020/21 did not get assessed at Key Stage 1 (at least not a statutory assessment). This means that those pupils have no KS1 start point for their KS1 to KS2 progress measures as they reach the end of year 6 in 2024 and 2025 respectively. There will therefore be no published progress measures in either of

those years and DfE made the following announcement on 13th July 2023 in their technical guidance (link below):

"*As primary tests and assessments were cancelled in academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to COVID-19 disruption, there will be no relevant KS1 data which is required to calculate primary progress measures for 2023/24 and 2024/25. Given the lack of a statistically robust alternative baseline to calculate primary progress measures, **we will not be producing or publishing primary progress measures for 2023/24 and 2024/25,** and instead will only publish the usual attainment measures as set out on p12 for these years. We considered using each of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP), Phonics Screening Check (PSC) and the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) as an 7 alternative baseline, but we concluded that these all had statistical issues which made them unsuitable. We intend to return to producing progress measures using KS1 assessments in 2025/26 and 2026/27, ahead of the introduction of Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)-KS2 progress measures from 2027/28.*"

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1169228/Primary_school_accountability_in_2022_technical_guide_July_2023.pdf