

Assessment, Moderation and Monitoring Update



Summer 2024

Welcome to the Summer Term edition of updates from the Assessment team.

STA Updates

Reminder: update on RBA delivery in the academic year 2024 to 2025

In March 2023, STA informed schools that they would need 2 devices to administer the reception baseline assessment (RBA) from September 2024.

However, they have made the decision to delay the implementation of this two-device solution until September 2025. This will allow them more time to develop and test this approach, including conducting further user research with schools. They have updated the RBA IT guidance to reflect this change.

In the academic year 2024 to 2025, there will be no change for schools and the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) will continue to deliver the RBA. You can find more information and guidance on the RBA collection page.

If you have any questions, or would be interested in digital user research, please contact Future-RBA.sta@education.gov.uk.

STA will be carrying out a full review of statutory assessment in early Autumn.

STA Assessment Timetable Academic year 2024 to 2025

Reception baseline assessment

Schools must complete the reception baseline assessment for each child in the first 6 weeks after they enter reception.

Early years foundation stage profile assessment

Schools must complete the early years foundation stage profile assessment between April and June of the academic year in which children turn 5, which is usually the reception year.

Optional key stage 1 tests

It is recommended by STA that the optional key stage 1 tests are administered during May 2025.

Key stage 2 tests

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 12 May to Thursday 15 May 2025.

Multiplication tables check

Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 2 June 2025.

Phonics screening check

Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 9 June 2025.

Coventry LA KS2 Sats Monitoring Review

KS2 Sats monitoring visits took place before, during and after the administration week. The following gives an early picture of findings.

Where good practice was observed:

- Governors attended to observe
- Schools were well prepared
- Guidance was followed
- Practice papers had been taken to determine whether or not additional time would have an impact
- Pupils were well supported in a calm atmosphere
- Additional time started first so all pupils finished around the same time.

Issues:

- In some cases, pupils had to sit and wait for those with additional time to finish
- HT's did not always ensure that only those pupils in a fit state took the tests
- Despite the early notice of dates to parents, many schools unfortunately had pupils absent or on holiday during Sats week
- It was clear that, despite LA briefings and all STA's published guidance, some HT's had not read the latest guidance, particularly these paragraphs:

8.1 Checking your test papers and stationery delivery

We recommend the headteacher or delegated member of staff, and at least one other member of school staff, check your delivery on receipt. Schools should check their delivery to ensure:

- the school's details are correct, and the delivery is for your school
- the boxes and test packs are sealed and undamaged

8.2 Security of test materials

Headteachers must ensure the integrity, security and confidentiality of the KS2 test materials are maintained from the point they arrive in school until Friday 24 May, after the timetable variation period has ended and all test scripts have been collected for marking.

Headteachers should ensure teachers and all other staff who may handle the materials understand their sensitivity.

The headteacher **should allocate responsibility for overseeing the secure storage of test materials to a member of staff not directly involved with the administration of the tests.** This member of staff should take responsibility for the secure storage of test materials. As part of that responsibility, they should keep a log of requests for access to the materials, so they are able to give an accurate account of everyone with access to the test materials from the point they arrive in school until Friday 24 May and all test scripts have been collected for marking.

Central KS2 Standardisation and Moderation of Writing 20th March 2024

Coventry schools came together on 20th March at Friargate for a standardisation and moderation session. The latest updates were given and frequently asked questions answered, including topics such as particular weakness, handwriting and levels of independence. Last year's external moderation was discussed, with good practice shared. Teachers were advised on essential reading for moderation, such as the STA document on pupils working below the national curriculum assessment standard i.e. pre-key stage standards. This was a particularly useful reminder as there were some misconceptions around how to assess those children not yet reaching WTS.

Teachers worked to complete a standardisation exercise, using STA collections, and then spent time identifying the standard of children's writing brought with them.

The benefits of the central session lie in having moderators on each table to support and teachers justifying judgements to colleagues from other schools, which can ensure a more rigorous process. It is an ideal opportunity to prepare for making final TA judgements and moderation.

Next year there will be two such sessions to satisfy demand.

Statutory External Moderation of Writing KS2 Mon 17th-Thurs 20th June 2024

KS2 moderation is part of the Local Authority's statutory duty to quality assure writing teacher assessment at KS2.

This year 27 schools are being externally moderated, and the relevant Y6 teachers and senior staff attended a briefing on 22nd May where they had the opportunity to meet their moderators, have any questions answered and make arrangements for TA data swap under the Coventry Local Agreement.

Essential reading prior to external moderation:

The Coventry Statutory KS2 Moderation Guidance 2023-24

This gives detailed information about the roles and responsibilities of school, moderator and LA, and sets out the remoderation and appeals processes.

STA KS2 Teacher Assessment Guidance for schools and local authorities

Both documents can be found here:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/assessment-moderation-monitoring-data-collection/services-schools-assessment-moderation-monitoring-data-collection>

KS2 Network Moderation of Writing

A reminder:

'The best way for a school to prepare for an external moderation visit is to have robust internal assessment processes. These should be based on teachers' understanding of the TA frameworks and collaboration with other schools, where possible.'

Schools must ensure that judgements against the TA frameworks for the cohort are available for external moderation categorised by standard, and should also subject them to internal moderation prior to a local authority external moderation visit.'

Key Stage 2 teacher assessment guidance September 2023

The **Coventry Network Moderation Handbook** is a useful tool when planning network moderation.

It can be found here:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/assessment-moderation-monitoring-data-collection/services-schools-assessment-moderation-monitoring-data-collection>

Best practice in network moderation

We are grateful for the time and expertise given by those Coventry moderators who support network moderation. They continue to meet each term as a group, to share good practice and support organisation.

After discussing Spring Term network moderation, it was again agreed that the most successful sessions were where Y6 teachers had time within the school day to focus on both standardisation and moderation.

Another successful strategy employed by some networks is where, prior to meetings, teachers are canvassed to gauge which of those pupil-can statements are sometimes hard to evidence. Sessions then include those areas as a specific focus, using the STA self-study materials available on the PAG.

At this stage in the Summer term, schools will no doubt be identifying dates and planning network moderation for the academic year 2024-25. When considering the content of each term's meetings, the Autumn term session may have greater impact, dependent on when it takes place in the term, if focused more on standardisation, in order to clarify and deepen understanding of the standards. This would further support accurate judgements going forward. The PAG contains numerous Standardisation Exercises with commentaries that are ideal for this.

CPD 2023-24

This academic year Coventry Assessment team offered cpd delivered by experienced external provider Jan Fisher. The courses encompassed:

- Preparing for Y6 Moderation
- Assessment and Moderation networks
- Developing effective in-school Moderation of Writing
- Understanding Standards in Writing - GDS.

CPD dates for next academic year will be confirmed shortly. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is an area of assessment you would like to see represented in our offer.

Important Dates

Mon 17th-Thurs 20th June KS2 External Moderation week

Mon 24th June Data return for schools being moderated 2024

Wed 26th June Moderation Appeals and Data review

Wed 26th June Data return for schools NOT being moderated 2024

Fri 28th June submission of TA data to DfE by Data Team on schools' behalf.

For comprehensive data collection information, please use the following link:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/services-schools/primary-key-stage-collection-timetable-2024>

Useful Resources

- Standardisation exercises 2018-2023 on the PAG
- STA self-study materials for 2022/23 and 2023/24 on the PAG -useful materials in developing subject knowledge and deepening an understanding of standards. All moderators have completed cpd using these materials and would be pleased to support their networks in how best to use them.

Contact Details

Helen Masefield, Education Standards, Performance and Governance Lead

helen.masefield@coventry.gov.uk

Kevin Coughlan, Data Team Performance Manager

kevin.coughlan@coventry.gov.uk

Julia Etheridge, KS2 Moderation Manager

julia.etheridge@coventry.gov.uk