Assessment, Moderation and Monitoring Update

Coventry City Council

Spring 2026

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

Phonics Screening Check and Monitoring Updates

Phonics screening check and KS2 monitoring visits will take place before, during and after the relevant administration week.

Further information will be provided at the online **Test Administration briefing**, which is in the first week of next term, Tuesday 14th April, 1.30-2.30pm.

CPD for those new to administering the Phonics screening check 7th May 3.30-5pm at Friargate.

There is no LA responsibility to monitor the Y4 Multiplication Tables Check.

STA Assessment Update 3rd March 2026

Key Stage 1

- Optional KS1 test administration guidance available from Monday 9th March

Key Stage 2

- Action: check you have submitted your pupil registration data on the NCA Portal by Friday 6th March. This includes pupils who are working below the standard of the national curriculum or unable to access the tests. Pupil registration must be complete before schools can make applications for access arrangements.

- Reminder: apply for early opening by 11.59pm Friday 6th March. Schools may open KS2 test papers up to an hour before a test is due to start to make adaptations without seeking permission. If schools need more than an hour for more complex adaptations, they must apply for early opening.

- The '*returning KS2 test scripts guidance*' has been updated as of 2nd March. Changes include completing the test attendance registers online.

- Action: stationery and pre-printed labels from previous KS2 tests cannot be used for 2026 tests onwards. These should be disposed of before delivery of 2026 test materials in April. The materials are recyclable.

- The Test administration Guidance (TAG) will be published on Monday 9th March.

- Reminder: the *2026 KS2 teacher assessment data collection: technical specification* was published in February. It explains how to prepare and return KS2 teacher assessment, pre-key stage and engagement model data.

National Curriculum Assessments Portal

There seem to be fewer issues with the Portal now, however if you still require further assistance, you can contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or at assessments@education.gov.uk

STA have agreed to add supportive walk-through videos to the Portal for any new procedures. They are working with Pearson to do so but as yet there is no completion date.

As the STA training materials have been moved from the PAG to the Portal, we would recommend enabling English Subject Leaders to access the Portal, in order to use them with staff.

STA, AI and Writing

STA recognises that AI is a growing force in education, and is being used in schools within the writing process.

They advise that teacher assessment judgements at the end of KS2 **should no**t be made with the use of AI, and that any AI-created judgements would not be accepted within the moderation process.

STA has concerns over the independence of writing which has been produced as a result of some level of AI support. Therefore the Teacher Assessment Guidance has been updated with regard this:

Writing is not independent if it has been:

- modelled or heavily scaffolded – as part of external moderation, local authority moderators can discuss where they find modelled or scaffolded writing, and they may ask for further examples of a pupil's work to support the standard and judgement
- copied or paraphrased, including producing work that demonstrates an over-reliance on a model text
- edited or rewritten because of direct intervention by a teacher or other adult – for example, when the pupil has been directed to change specific words for greater impact, where incorrect or omitted punctuation has been indicated, or when incorrectly spelt words have been identified by an adult for the pupil to correct
- **edited or rewritten following feedback from large language models or other forms of artificial intelligence (AI) – teachers should make it clear to moderators where they have used AI programmes to provide feedback, so this work can be excluded from the pupil's collection of writing**
- produced with the support of electronic aids that automatically provide correct spelling, synonyms, punctuation or predictive text – if the electronic aid is turned off, such as spell check and grammar in a word programme, this would be considered independent
- **produced, either in full or in part, using large language models or other forms of artificial intelligence – using this type of writing to reach TA judgements could result in the school being investigated for maladministration**
- supported by detailed success criteria that specifically direct pupils what to include, or where to include it, in their writing – for example, directing them to include specific vocabulary, grammatical features or punctuation

Coventry LA KS2 Moderation Recruitment 2025/26

We are pleased to continue with a strong moderation team this year. After successfully completing training and a rigorous standardisation exercise completed under controlled circumstances, the Coventry team for 25/26 comprises of 23 experienced Moderators plus 6 new colleagues. The team will continue to strengthen their expertise with a further day's training this half-term, as well as supporting during the Central Standardisation and Moderation sessions later this month.

As ever, we are grateful to school leaders for their continued support in enabling teachers to become Moderators, with the challenges of cover for their time out of school.

For those experienced Y6 teachers who may wish to consider the role next year, please contact the Moderation Manager in early September for an Expression of Interest form.

External Moderation

Schools will be notified of External Moderation of Writing KS2 on Friday 15th May, with a Meet the Moderator session on Tuesday 19th May. Please be aware of the short turn-around in dates. Due to availability of space, we would request a maximum of two school personnel at that meeting. Full details will be sent to schools on the 15th.

CPD and Briefings

Y6 Standardisation and Moderation central session

24th March 2026 OR 25th March 2026 1-4pm

For teacher assessment to be accurate, robust and reliable, it is important that all staff participate in standardisation activities and moderate their judgements. Therefore the Local Authority offers the opportunity for Y6 staff to attend a central standardisation and moderation session - an invaluable session for Y6 teachers led by the KS2 Moderation Manager.
STA updates and good practice with regard external moderation are shared, as well as the use of standardisation materials. Teachers are asked to bring collections of pupils' work for discussion alongside Coventry moderators. This is ideal preparation for making final TA judgements.

Please see the Assessment, Moderation, Monitoring and Data Collection pages on the council website for pertinent information, updates and other cpd details:

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

Contact Details

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