

Assessment, Moderation and Monitoring Update



Autumn 2024

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

STA Updates

Optional KS1 test materials

On Thursday 10 October STA announced changes to the distribution of optional key stage 1 (KS1) tests.

From the academic year 2024 to 2025, they will no longer print and distribute standard papers for the KS1 tests. Instead, they will make them available on the Primary Assessment Gateway (PAG), for schools to download and print locally if they wish, from Thursday 1 May.

Schools will still be able to order hard copies of modified KS1 test papers. Schools should place orders for these on the PAG by Friday 15 November to receive them in spring 2025.

You can find more information about these changes and read full details of the arrangements for the academic year 2024 to 2025 in the 2025 optional KS1 tests guidance [here](#).

Dates for 2024-2025

On Tuesday 1 October, STA updated their primary assessments future dates with the:

- detailed timetable for the KS2 tests in May 2025
- new downloadable KS2 calendar with all important dates for the academic year 2024 to 2025
- expected dates for tests and assessments in primary school throughout the academic year 2026 to 2027

They have also since added the KS1 calendar.

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.

Dates for 2026-27

The expected assessment dates for the academic year 2026 to 2027 include the:

- reception baseline assessment (RBA), in the first 6 weeks after pupils enter reception
- early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile assessment, between April and June
- optional KS1 tests, recommended during May 2027
- statutory KS2 tests, timetabled from Monday 10 May to Thursday 13 May 2027
- multiplication tables check, within the 2-week period from Monday 7 June 2027
- phonics screening check, within the 1-week period from Monday 14 June 2027

Schools must keep these periods free for administering the assessments. If there should be any changes as a result of the curriculum and assessment review, STA will update this information accordingly.

Coventry LA KS2 Writing Moderation Review June 2024

KS2 Writing Moderation took place the week of 16th June. 27 schools were moderated.

Prior to the moderation, teachers were given the opportunity to attend the Meet the Moderator session on 22nd May. Feedback from this meeting reinforced how valuable it is:

- *Abated nerves and clarified what needed to happen before, and on, the moderation day.*
- *Putting a name to a friendly face made the process less daunting. Making sure about the arrangements for the moderation selection and day.*
- *It was a great opportunity to talk face to face to have a professional discussion.*
- *The opportunity to put a face to the name. Meeting the moderator before moderation helped me to feel more comfortable leading into moderation as someone who was completing this for the first time.*
- *The moderators were really clear as to the process, and what was required of teachers. The team had all of their questions answered and felt as well-prepared as they could be.*

The writing of 204 children was moderated. The vast majority of judgements were agreed, which shows again how well Y6 teachers know and can apply the standards to children's writing.

The table below shows the number of judgments that were changed over the last two years.

	2023	2024
WTS to PKS	0	1
WTS to EXS:	6	6
EXS to WTS:	4	1
EXS to GDS	0	4
GDS to EXS	14	5

Remoderation

Re-moderation only applies where pupils have the **potential** to meet the next standard before the deadline for data submission. It is not a method of further moderation to avoid appeals, nor is it part of the appeals process. At the time of the external moderation visit, there may be pupils who have not yet demonstrated a small number of the 'pupil can' statements for the next standard and have the potential to meet it. If the school and the LA moderator agree that these pupils will be able to consistently demonstrate the relevant knowledge or skills after the external moderation visit, but before the deadline for TA data submission in June, then re-moderation can be undertaken.

There were 7 remoderations across Moderation Week. The most common reasons for remoderation involved spelling and dialogue.

Where **spelling** was concerned, children did not have sufficient evidence of achievement in spelling in terms of the Y3/4 or Y5/6 words from the Spelling Appendix. The spellings of the Y3/4 or Y5/6 words that were seen were not incorrect, however there were not enough of them contained in the writing to satisfy the 'pupil can' statements for spelling. Teachers were asked to provide evidence from previous spelling tests in order to satisfy the particular statement.

STA self-study materials TE12 is very useful in identifying good practice and what makes good evidence with regard spelling. It can be found on the PAG.

Where **dialogue** caused remoderation, it was often because there was confusion between dialogue and speech (where dialogue is between at least two characters and is used by the writer for a variety of reasons, and speech is made by one character) and stories did not use sufficient dialogue, or had just one character talking.

Teachers were asked to provide further evidence to show that children did know how to use dialogue within a story.

Again, STA self-study materials TE10 is very useful in identifying how and why dialogue is used in writing.

KS2 Moderation of Writing 2024-25

Coventry's Moderation Team

We are very grateful that 23 experienced moderators have once again put themselves forward to moderate this year. We appreciate the time out of school and extra study that the moderators need in order to fulfill the role. Moderators are expected to be out of school for approximately 5 days across the year. Payment towards the cost of cover is made by the LA.

Experienced moderators will be completing an initial day's training in November, which comprises of subject-specific study and a standardisation exercise. On successful completion of the day, moderators go on to complete further cpd later in the Spring term.

Prospective Moderators

We are always pleased to offer places in our team to experienced Y6 teachers with an excellent knowledge of the standards. Upon successful completion of an Expression of Interest form, prospective moderators are invited to a training day in January which consists of cpd, a short interview and a standardisation exercise.

If this is of interest, please email Julia Etheridge KS2 Moderation Manager to request an Expression of Interest form.

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>

Please see last term's Assessment newsletter for a summary of best practice with regard network moderation.

Schools are expected to attend network moderation sessions and will be asked about their participation in those sessions during external moderation. A lack of internal moderation could be a trigger for external moderation.

Coventry LA Local Agreement

As stated in the Teacher Assessment Guidance 2024: External moderation arrangements that are communicated to schools by LAs and that lie outside the scope of this document are by local agreement only and must be clearly stated as non-statutory. Local agreements are in addition to, and do not replace, statutory guidance.

The Coventry Local agreement

Data and teacher workload - allowing schools to send TA data to moderators prior to moderation.

To ease workload on teachers, schools still have the opportunity, if they wish, to send data (TA judgements) to the moderator, prior to their visit, so the moderator can select and inform teachers of the moderation sample selection prior to moderation. Moderators would then send teachers, one day ahead, the names of the children selected for the moderation discussion. It is still important to remember that moderators must have access to all children's books in case the sample needs to be widened. Sending TA data to the moderator remains the school's choice.

All schools should have received a copy of the Coventry Local Agreement through their Network Lead Headteacher.

Coventry Local Agreement only applies to moderated schools.

CPD 2024-5

This academic year Coventry Assessment team is offering cpd delivered both in-house and by experienced external provider Jan Fisher. The courses include:

- Termly Assessment briefings
- New to Y6 - 2 sessions across the year
- Understanding Standards in Writing - Greater Depth in Y6
- Developing Effective in-school Moderation for Y6
- Assessment and Moderation network - Y6 writing cpd - 3 sessions across the year
- Preparing for Y6 moderation
- KS2 Standardisation and Moderation sessions open to all Y6 teachers - an ideal opportunity to prepare for final TA judgements

All details of course content and booking information can be found [here](#).

Schools have a statutory responsibility to ensure teachers are prepared and able to make accurate Teacher Assessment judgements. Non-attendance at cpd could trigger external moderation of Writing.

Useful Resources

STA have not provided any new cpd materials this year. However, their previous materials are very useful and can be found on the PAG:

- Standardisation exercises 2018-2023
- STA self-study materials for 2022/23 and 2023/24 -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

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