

Assessment, Moderation and Monitoring Update



Autumn 2025

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

STA Updates

Assessment dates for the academic year 2027 to 2028

On Monday 13 October, STA updated the primary assessments future dates with the expected assessment dates for the academic year 2027 to 2028, including 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 2028
- optional key stage 1 (KS1) tests, recommended during May 2028
- statutory key stage 2 (KS2) tests, timetabled from Monday 8 May to Thursday 11 May 2028
- multiplication tables check, within the 2-week period from Monday 5 June 2028
- phonics screening check, within the 1-week period from Monday 12 June 2028

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.

National Curriculum Assessments Portal

The Portal is now up and running and all schools should have set up accounts for those requiring access. There have been a few issues that STA have been quick to iron out, but if you need further assistance, you can:

- refer to STA guidance on [how to access the NCA Portal](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-access-the-national-curriculum-assessments-portal):
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-access-the-national-curriculum-assessments-portal>
- contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or at assessments@education.gov.uk

Reception Baseline Assessment

Action: submit the reception baseline assessment headteacher's declaration form by Friday 7 November.

Where pupils started reception at the beginning of the autumn term, the 6-week period in which schools must administer the statutory RBA has ended or will end shortly.

Please ensure your school has submitted the headteacher's declaration form within the 'Assessment service: manage you school's assessments', using [DfE Sign-in](#), by Friday 7 November.

Phonics Screening Check

Action: decline 2026 phonics screening check materials, if no pupils will take part, by Friday 14 November.

If your school does not have any pupils working at the standard of the phonics screening check, you must inform STA that you will not need any check materials, by submitting the 'Phonics opt-out' form in the 'Activities' section of the [NCA Portal](#) by Friday 14 November.

For more information, please refer to the [2026 phonics screening check assessment and reporting arrangements \(ARA\)](#).

KS2

Action: place KS2 test orders by Friday 14 November.

Schools can place orders for KS2 test materials by submitting the 'KS2 Test Orders' form in the 'Activities' section of the [NCA Portal](#) by Friday 14 November.

Additional time applications for KS2 Sats.

The window has been extended and will remain available until 21st May. However, applications still need to be submitted *prior* to a pupil taking the test.

It is important to remember that any pupil requiring additional time should only do so if it is their 'normal classroom practice' and evidence should be readily available to show this.

Coventry LA KS2 Writing Moderation Review June 2025

KS2 Writing Moderation took place the week of 16th June. 24 schools were moderated. Prior to the moderation, teachers were given the opportunity to attend the Meet the Moderator session on 21st May. Feedback from this meeting reinforced how valuable it is:

- *Very positive to be able to meet them and set my team's minds at rest.*
- *It put our mind at ease. Very informal. Clear steps what was about to happen. And explaining the four year cycle.*
- *A good opportunity to meet the moderator ahead.*
- *It fully answered all the questions I had going into the session.*
- *Very useful.*
- *The team found it useful and went into the moderation confident.*
- *It was very successful, nice to meet them both - dates and times agreed and clear information on what to provide for evidence.*

This year's Meet the Moderator takes place on Tuesday 19th May, after schools have been notified of external moderation on Friday 15th May. Please be aware of the short turn-around in being able to release staff to attend.

The vast majority of judgements were agreed during external moderation in June, which shows again how well Y6 teachers know and can apply the standards to children's writing. The following table shows the number of judgments that were changed over the last three years.

	2023	2024	2025
WTS to PKS	0	1	3
WTS to EXS:	6	6	4
EXS to WTS:	4	1	1
EXS to GDS	0	4	0
GDS to EXS	14	5	3
Total changes	24	17	11
	6 up 18 down	10 up 7 down	4 up 7 down

There were 4 remoderations this year, involving handwriting and dialogue.

Where **handwriting** was concerned, pupils did not have enough evidence for the statements. It is worth remembering, however, it is not an expectation that a child's handwriting is perfect across all pieces of work. The pupil needs to demonstrate that they *are able to* write in the way the statement requires.

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. STA self-study material TE10 is very useful in identifying how and why dialogue is used in writing. This is available on the STA Portal.

One other point emerged from moderation; while one story can provide enough evidence of certain pupil-can statements, it is useful to include at least two, to ensure there is sufficient evidence to show a child's usual practice.

KS2 Moderation of Writing 2025-26

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, and are pleased that 8 prospective moderators have put themselves forward this year. They have been invited to a training day in January which consists of cpd, a short interview and a standardisation exercise.

We appreciate the current difficulties of releasing staff, and are, as ever, very grateful to headteachers for their continued support of the Moderation team.

Network Moderation

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 subjected to internal moderation before a local authority external moderation visit.'

Key Stage 2 teacher assessment guidance October 2025

It is of benefit that every network has at least one moderator to support in network moderation.

Due to the statutory requirement to moderate prior to external moderation, non-attendance at network or central moderation sessions could trigger external moderation.

CPD and Briefings

It is vital that Headteachers, along with Assessment Leads and Y6 teachers, attend the statutory assessment briefings, held on the following dates: 4th December, 14th April. This helps to ensure that no errors or confusion arise during key assessment periods.

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