![Standards & Testing Agency logo]

National curriculum assessments review outcomes at key stage 2 in England, 2017: Quality and methodology information

This document provides an overview of the data used in the production of the tables in the national curriculum assessments review outcomes at key stage 2 (KS2) in England, 2017.

It provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality, and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated.

1. About the output

Results for KS2 tests referred to in this document can be found in the following Statistical First Release (SFR):

- National curriculum assessments: key stage 2, 2017 (provisional)

School level information for the end of primary school is published in the primary school performance tables.

Data sources

Tests must be administered by state-funded schools in England. Independent schools, non-maintained special schools and pupil referral units may take part in the KS2 assessments if they wish to do so.

The marking supplier collected test data for all tests, regardless of whether they were marked onscreen or on paper. The data set analysed in this report was data feed 5 and was supplied to the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) on Friday 1 September 2017.

How the output is created

Data is collected by the marking supplier and supplied to STA. The data is checked by STA to ensure reviews have been correctly applied and the outcomes returned to schools on 4 September 2017. This data is summarised in this SFR.

Historical data from previous provisional SFRs is updated and included for reference in this SFR.

SFR production

All data in the SFR tables is dual-run by two analysts independently. Any discrepancies in the data are discussed and more experienced staff involved as required to agree the correct figures. Additional checks are also carried out on the data by the producers.

Examples of additional checks:

- comparisons with previous figures to identify any large changes
- check totals are consistent across tables
- check patterns in the data are as expected

2. Technical Information

Key stage 2 test review services in 2017

Schools could apply for either of the following types of review service:

- clerical review
- marking review

[Guidance](#) for schools interested in applying for a review is published on GOV.UK[1].

The vast majority of English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and mathematics tests were marked onscreen. Errors in the transcription or addition of marks could not arise for onscreen marked tests. However, there was a small possibility that a pupil's test script image could have been incorrectly matched to another pupil's data record. A clerical review service was therefore available for the onscreen marked tests so that schools could highlight any instances of test results being incorrectly assigned to the wrong pupil. Schools can view pupils' marked scripts on the NCA tools website.

There were some test scripts which could not be scanned and had to be marked on paper, for example braille, enlarged print, photocopied scripts or scripts with additional sheets. The review service for these scripts was completed on paper. Schools that wished to apply for a review of a script that was marked on paper had to repackage and return them to the marking supplier.

Since 2010, a marking review service has involved a review of marking for the entire test. This checks that the published mark scheme was applied to the agreed standard throughout all the test scripts applicable to that test. The review marker reviews the mark awarded for each item (question) against the mark scheme, to confirm the mark scheme has been correctly applied. Since 2011, schools have been provided with the option to highlight specific item(s) or test scripts they wish to bring to the review marker's attention. This gives schools the opportunity to raise specific concerns. Both practices continued in 2017.

For all tests marked on paper, a marking review also included a clerical check of the addition and transcription of marks on all test scripts submitted for review. If a marking review request was unsuccessful because the mark scheme had been applied appropriately by the original marker, but a clerical error was detected, the review was reported as a clerical review rather than a marking review.

Schools that participated in the 2017 KS2 national curriculum tests received their marked test scripts and results by the published deadline of Tuesday 4 July 2017 via NCA tools. Any test scripts reviewed on paper were returned to schools. The deadline for requesting a review was Friday 14 July 2017.

Schools could only apply for a review by using the NCA tools website. All applications were processed by our marking supplier.

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[1] [How to apply for a review of key stage 2 national curriculum test results](#)

The national curriculum tests were originally marked by a pool of approximately 4,300 markers. Tests were split into individual items for marking and anonymised, meaning each item on a test script could be marked by a different marker.

116 markers marked test scripts submitted for review. At the review stage, schools are allocated a review marker who reviews all test scripts for all pupils at that school.

Markers entered item level marks into the onscreen marking software as part of the review process. All item level marks for a pupil's test script were automatically aggregated to create a raw score for the test. The agreed scaled score conversions were later applied to the data feed by STA's marking supplier.

National curriculum tests marked on paper were also reviewed on paper by a review marker. Their item level marks were then keyed into the onscreen marking system by the marking supplier's processing team. Item level marks were automatically aggregated and the scaled score conversions applied in line with the test scripts marked onscreen.

Review fees and process inquiries

Schools were informed that they would be charged for any marking review applications that did not result in a change to the achievement of the expected standard, or resulted in a raw score change of fewer than 3 marks. The marking review fee has remained unchanged since 2010, at £9.

Schools were charged for a clerical review if it did not correct a test script matched to the wrong pupil; and/or produced no change to the raw score, or scaled score, or the assigned code as to why the pupil did not sit the test. The clerical review fee has remained unchanged since 2010, at £5.

Schools could request a process inquiry if they were not satisfied that the correct procedures had been followed in the conduct of a marking review. The outcome of a process inquiry is final and there is no right of appeal. At the time of writing, 5 process inquiry applications had been received.