



Standards
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[See more information about this Guidance](#)

Guidance

Science sampling arrangements

Updated 25 April 2016

Contents

[Methodology](#)

[Statutory duty](#)

[Test period](#)

[Test administration](#)

[Test results](#)

Methodology

Biennial science tests for pupils at the end of key stage 2 will take place in June 2016. The test will not be taken by whole cohorts. Instead a sample of

[↑ Contents](#)

approximately 9,500 pupils will be randomly selected, based on 5 pupils from each of 1,900 schools. In addition, of the 1,900 schools selected, 900 will be chosen to participate in pre-test trialling of items to be included in future tests. Five additional pupils from each school will take these tests. The science test will not be subject to local authority monitoring visits.

Notification

Schools selected to take part were notified by email on Monday 25 April.

Statutory duty

Headteachers of schools selected to participate in the science tests have a statutory duty to ensure the assessment arrangements are implemented in their schools. They must ensure:

- teachers and other staff comply with the arrangements for the science tests
- the selected pupils take the tests if they are working at the standard in science at the end of the key stage 2 programme of study

Some parents may ask a headteacher not to enter their child for the tests. In all instances the headteacher's decision regarding participation is final. Headteachers should explain the school's decision to parents.

Test period

Pupils will sit the tests on 1 day within a 2 week period from Monday 6 June.

The tests will consist of 3 papers. Each will take no longer than 25 minutes to complete. Schools will be contacted by the middle of May to agree which day the test will be administered. Consideration will be given to schools' existing commitments.

Test administration

STA has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out these statutory tests. The tests will be overseen by NFER administrators. A member of school staff should be present during the tests to assist with any matters that might arise, such as a pupil being ill or behaviour issues.

NFER will confirm which pupils have been selected to take part, via the 'School portal'. Schools do not need to place test orders. The test administrator will be responsible for bringing the test papers to school and taking the test scripts for marking.

NFER will send detailed information to schools about the administration process, along with a 'notification of selection' letter.

Test results

Test results will be reported as national data only. No individual school or child will be identified within the data that is published.

Results will not be:

- used for school accountability or performance tables
- returned to schools or pupils

A report summarising the results will be published in early 2017.

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