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## Primary assessment

### Information: Secretary of State's announcement about primary assessment

The Secretary of State made an [announcement](#) on 19 October about primary assessment including confirmation that there will be no new tests or assessments introduced before the 2018 to 2019 academic year.

In addition, she has confirmed that:

- no more than 6% of primary schools will be below the floor standard in 2016
- we will be laying regulations around coasting, so that schools not making enough progress get the focus and support that they need to improve. We expect a small proportion of primary schools to be defined as coasting this year
- the key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test will remain non-statutory this year
- we will publish improved guidance for the moderation of teacher assessment, which has been produced working closely with the teaching profession, and which will help to ensure a more consistent, reliable approach to the moderation of teacher assessment across the country
- that guidance will be accompanied by mandatory training for local authority moderators. This training will include planning and self-assessment to better enable moderators to quality assure their processes and make sure they are consistently accurate on each school visit

- we will not introduce statutory mathematics and reading resits on children's arrival in year 7. Rather, we will focus on the steps needed to ensure a child catches up lost ground. We will introduce a targeted package of support to make sure that struggling pupils are supported by teachers to catch up in year 7
- the early years foundation stage profile will remain in place for the 2017 to 2018 academic year

The announcement includes plans for a consultation on primary assessment and its implications for accountability early in the new year.

The consultation will cover key issues, including the best starting point to measure the progress that children make in primary school, and the role and operation of teacher assessment.

The Secretary of State has also written a letter to governing bodies. The letter summarises her announcement setting out steps to improve and simplify assessment arrangements, including the launch of the consultation referred to above. The letter also refers to 2016 key stage 2 data, advising governing bodies on how they should interpret that data and offers reassurance that 2016 results should not lead to automatic action, but should be a starting point for discussion with the current leaders of the small minority of primary schools below the floor or coasting to help and support those schools to move forward in a positive direction. Please ensure that this letter is passed to the chair of your governing body.

Alongside the announcement, we have also published the [Rochford Review](#) report, which makes recommendations for assessment arrangements of those pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum tests.

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