

# National Curriculum Testing at Key Stage 2

Quantitative Top Line Findings

Ipsos MORI



Research Report No  
DCSF-RR092

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## TOPLINE FINDINGS (31 March 2009)

- 3,475 interviews were conducted with members of the English general public, face-to-face, in-home between 6 and 23 March 2009, using the Ipsos MORI Capibus.
- Of these, 29% had a child aged 5-16 years old. Results, therefore, are based on 936 interviews with parents of at least one child aged 5-16 years old (Base: All), unless otherwise stated.
- The data presented are weighted to reflect the national profile
- An asterisk (\*) represents a value of less than half a per cent, but not zero.
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding, or the exclusion of 'don't know / not stated' response categories.

**QTE01B If you have children aged 5-11, do any of them currently attend primary school?**

	%
Yes .....	67
No.....	33

*I would now like to ask you some questions about education and educational testing in England, specifically National Curriculum testing (or as they are sometimes known, SATs).*

**QTE01 Thinking of primary education, are you aware of the National Curriculum tests (or SATs) that children sit during the last year of primary school or Key Stage 2?**

	%
Yes .....	85
No.....	12
Don't know.....	3

*National Curriculum tests are externally marked tests which children take at the end of primary school, usually in May, for children aged 10-11 years old - also known as Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests (and not any other internal tests the school may run).*

**QTE02 Have any of your children sat Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests (or SATs) at age 10/11?**

	%
Yes .....	52
No.....	44
Don't know.....	4

QTE03 **Thinking about these National Curriculum tests at Key Stage 2 (or SATs), on a scale of high to low importance, what importance do you place on your child(ren) taking part in these tests?**

	%
High importance .....	32
Medium importance .....	33
Low importance .....	28
Don't know .....	7

**Have you ever used or do you intend to use National Curriculum test results in any of these ways?**

QTE 04a-5b TE04A. **Firstly, which (if any) have you ever used?**  
 TE04B. **Please specify your main reason for using these results.**  
*(Base: 356; all with more than one reason for using the results)*  
 TE05A. **And which (if any) do you intend to use?**  
 TE05B. **Please specify your main reason for using these results.**  
*(Base: 247; all with more than one reason for using the results)*

	TE0 4a	TE0 4b	TE04 a+b (total)	TE0 5a	TE0 5b	TE05 a+b (total)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
To see how your child is doing at school.....	39	27	19	31	28	17
To identify areas where your child needs help and support.....	29	36	18	28	42	21
To monitor your child's progress .....	38	26	17	35	19	18
To see how your child's school is doing compared with others in the area .....	19	5	5	14	7	5
To initially help you choose a school .....	13	6	4	9	4	3
Other .....	1	1	1	*	*	*
Don't know.....	5	na	5	7	na	7
None of these .....	31	na	31	28	na	28
Any use .....	63		63	65		65
No use .....	31		31	28		28

- QTE06 **Which of the following reasons for not using them apply?**  
*(Base: 181; all who have not used and do not intend to use National Curriculum test results)*
- QTE07 **Please specify your top reason for not using these results.**  
*(Base: 181; all with more than one reason for using the results)*

	TE06	TE07
	%	%
I prefer to speak to the teacher(s) .....	44	23
I prefer to visit the school .....	31	6
I prefer a more personal approach than using National Curriculum tests to gauge achievement .....	24	14
I don't think they tell me enough about a school's performance .....	21	8
They don't indicate the areas where your child needs help and support .....	19	6
They don't indicate how your child is doing at school	15	7
I don't receive the results .....	2	2
I wouldn't know where to find the results.....	1	1
Other: Too much testing.....	3	-
Other: Child does not live with me.....	1	-
Other: Lack of confidence in the system .....	1	-
Other: Child is dyslexic.....	1	-
Other .....	10	17
Don't know / no answer .....	17	17

- QTE08 **Thinking about National Curriculum test results at Key Stage 2 (or SATs), on a scale of high to low value, how much or how little value do you think the test results are in providing information about how primary schools are doing?**

	%
High value .....	27
Medium value .....	43
Low value .....	22
Don't know.....	8

- QTE09 **How accurately or not do you think your child's National Curriculum test results at Key Stage 2 reflected how your child was doing?**  
*(Base: 481; all with children who sat Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests (or SATs) at age 10/11)*

	%
Very accurately.....	16
Fairly accurately .....	63
Not very accurately.....	14
Not at all accurately.....	8
Accurately.....	78
Not accurately .....	22

**QTE10 On a scale of ‘very useful’ to ‘not at all useful’, when your child took the National Curriculum tests at Key Stage 2, how useful did you find the feedback from your child’s teacher in giving you information about their performance at the test?**  
*(Base: 481; all with children who sat Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests (or SATs) at age 10/11)*

	%
Very useful .....	25
Fairly useful .....	39
Not very useful .....	21
Not at all useful.....	11
Don't know.....	2
None of these (did not get feedback) .....	3
 Useful .....	 63
Not useful .....	32

**QTE11 On a scale of ‘very useful’ to ‘not at all useful’, how useful do you think the National Assessment Key Stage 2 test results are/would be for teachers when children progress to secondary school?**

	%
Very useful .....	24
Fairly useful .....	44
Not very useful .....	14
Not at all useful.....	9
Don't know.....	8
 Useful .....	 69
Not useful .....	24

**QTE12 Do you think information on the performance of primary schools should be available to the general public?**

	%
Yes .....	75
No.....	18
Don't know.....	7

**QTE13 Do you think that National Curriculum testing at the end of Key Stage 2 should be replaced by another system or stay as it is?**

	%
Stay as it is .....	44
Replaced .....	36
Don't know.....	20

**QTE14 What do you think should replace the National Curriculum tests at Key Stage 2?**  
*(Base: 497; all who think that National Curriculum testing at the end of Key Stage 2 should be replaced by another system, or don't know)*

	%
Using a combination of teachers' judgement of a child's progress and assessments carried out by the child's teacher(s) .....	50
Using teachers' judgement of a child's progress .....	17
Using assessments carried out by the child's teacher(s) .....	15
Testing only when the child has reached a certain level of attainment, like music grades .....	8
Testing a representative sample of children from across the country to gauge national levels of attainment .....	6
Other: Would prefer assessments in place of tests .....	1
Other: Abolish it .....	1
Other .....	2
Don't know .....	19

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