



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Key stage 2 tests: monitoring visits guidance

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Introduction

This publication provides guidance for local authorities (LAs) about monitoring visits for the key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum assessments. It contains a copy of the KS2 monitoring visit form and instructions for its completion.

LAs have a statutory responsibility to monitor the administration of KS2 national curriculum tests. The legal basis for this activity is set out in [The Education \(National Curriculum\) \(Key Stage 2 Assessment Arrangements\) \(England\) Order 2003 \(as amended\)](#).¹

Monitoring visits help to ensure that the security and confidentiality of test materials are maintained, and that the tests are administered correctly and consistently. Monitoring visitors are also asked to observe the security of the key stage 1 (KS1) test materials (where applicable) when undertaking KS2 monitoring visits.

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/1038/contents/made

1: Carrying out monitoring visits

Preparing for a visit

Visits must be conducted impartially and any conflict of interest must be managed. Anyone responsible for managing or carrying out school visits should not have a close personal relationship with the school or school staff.

To carry out a monitoring visit correctly, you should ensure you have read and understood this guidance.

You should also be familiar with the following guidance:

Key stage 1 tests: test administration guidance²

Guidance on the security of KS1 and KS2 tests and phonics screening check materials³

[2019 key stage 2: assessment and reporting arrangements](#)⁴

Key stage 2 tests: test administration guidance⁵

Key stage 2 tests: modified test administration guidance⁶

[Key stage 2: 2019 access arrangements guidance](#)⁷

2019 Attendance register and test script dispatch instructions⁸

Your LA monitoring visits co-ordinator (or relevant person from your organisation) will give you specific information before each visit. Make sure you take:

- details of the number of pupils at the school being assessed
- information to show which test materials the school has received for KS2, and for KS1 where applicable (this information will be taken from the delivery note generator, which allows LAs to view the quantities of test packs sent to a school – note that if schools place late orders, this will not be shown in the generator)

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-tests-test-administration-guidance-tag

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-and-phonics-screening-check-keep-materials-secure

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-test-administration-guidance-tag

⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-modified-test-administration-guidance-mtag

⁷ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-access-arrangements

⁸ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-attendance-register-and-test-script-dispatch

- reports from [NCA tools](#)⁹ showing whether the school is opening test packs early, using timetable variations (TTVs), or if any pupils are receiving additional time to complete the tests
- copies of the KS2 monitoring visit form (see section 2) and this guidance
- photo identification to present on arrival at a school (such as a passport, driving licence or official work pass)

Carrying out a visit

Depending on when your visit takes place, you will need to observe certain aspects of test administration to make sure the school is following the guidance correctly. Use the monitoring visits form to record what you see. At the end of the visit, you'll need to meet with the headteacher, or delegated member of staff, to discuss your findings.

Visits before the test period

These monitoring visits take place during the week beginning 6 May. You should check that KS2 test packs are unopened and stored securely, and that the school has received the correct number of packs.

If the school is also administering KS1 tests, you should check that they received the correct number of KS1 tests packs and that, if not in use, these are also stored securely.

Schools should follow guidance on keeping materials secure.

Check test packs

Your monitoring visits co-ordinator will give you details of the number of test packs delivered to the school (taken from the delivery note generator). Ask the headteacher, or delegated member of staff, for annotated copies of their delivery notes and details of the number of test packs that were actually delivered.

Check that all of the relevant test packs are sealed and stored securely. This must include KS1 test packs, where applicable.

Damaged test packs

If a school has received any damaged test packs, you should advise them to contact the national curriculum assessments helpline immediately on 0300 303 3013, if they have not

⁹ www.ncatools.education.gov.uk

already done so. The school may be asked to send a photograph of the damaged packages.

Early opening of test materials

If you are carrying out a monitoring visit during the week beginning 6 May, KS2 test packs should not have been opened.

Schools may only open test packs before Monday 13 May if they have an approved application on NCA tools for early opening to make adaptations to meet the needs of individual pupils.

Your monitoring visits co-ordinator should give you a report from NCA tools showing whether the school has been granted permission for early opening from STA. You should check that any materials that were opened early are stored securely.

If you find test packs have been opened without permission, you must record this on the monitoring visit form and discuss it with the headteacher or delegated member of staff at the end of your visit.

Storing KS1 test materials

KS1 test materials (including downloadable or printed materials) must be kept securely and treated as confidential from the point they are received in school until Monday 3 June. Appropriate security arrangements must be in place if test scripts are being marked away from school, or for transporting test scripts to another location to take part in moderation of marking. Individual test packs must not be opened before the KS1 test window commences on Wednesday 1 May.

If the school is administering a KS1 test, you should check that all other KS1 materials are stored securely.

Visits during the test period

These visits take place between Monday 13 May and Thursday 16 May.

You should arrive at the school at the beginning of the school day so that you are there before the start of the tests and can observe the complete test administration process.

This includes:

- opening the test packs
- administering the tests
- packing the test scripts (the test papers containing the pupils' answers)
- storing the test scripts securely

Where applicable, you should also see evidence that KS2 test scripts have been sent for marking.

You should follow the guidance for carrying out visits before or after the test period if tests have taken place or are yet to be administered.

Opening the test packs

Check that:

- test papers are opened just before the test, unless the school has obtained permission for early opening, or it has been necessary to make adaptations to a paper in the hour before the test
- the correct KS2 test is being administered according to the statutory timetable (or an approved TTV)

Administration of the tests

If the school administers a test in more than one room, you should monitor the test administration in each room. Ensure that you do not disturb pupils as they take the tests.

Check that:

- pupils are seated appropriately and are able to work independently
- wall displays are covered up or, if uncovered, do not offer any assistance or distraction to pupils
- pupils are not in possession of a mobile phone or smart watch that could give them an advantage during the tests
- the school adheres to test times
- test administrators, or other members of staff (for example readers, scribes or prompters), do not give inappropriate assistance to individual pupils or the group as a whole

If the school is using access arrangements, check that:

- they are administered in accordance with guidelines, in particular the use of readers, scribes, prompters, transcripts and additional time
- the school has evidence to show that access arrangements are used in accordance with normal classroom practice

For the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test you should also check that:

- the school administers the papers in test order
- pupils are not using equipment that is listed as 'not allowed' in the printed test administration instructions (provided with the test materials) or the KS2 test administration guidance

For the mathematics test you should also check that:

- the school administers the papers in test order
- pupils do not use calculators during any of the tests
- pupils are not using equipment that is listed as 'not allowed' in the printed test administration instructions (provided with the test materials) or the KS2 test administration guidance

Packing and storing test scripts

You should observe the whole cohort's test scripts being packed and stored. The headteacher, or delegated member of staff, should carry out this activity, using the guidance in the attendance register and test script dispatch instructions.

If the school is using a TTV to administer a test on another day, you should check that the rest of the cohort's test scripts are sealed in transparent inner bags and securely stored in a locked cupboard. If a pupil is taking a test on the scheduled day but at a different time from the rest of the cohort, the bag can remain unsealed until all pupils have taken the test. However, the rest of the cohort's scripts must be kept in a locked cupboard until then.

Dispatching test scripts

If the school has sent test scripts for marking:

- ask to see their proof of collection receipt
- check that there are no test scripts still on site that should have been sent for marking

Visits after the test period

These visits take place immediately after the test period, from Friday 17 May. You should use these visits to make sure that KS2 test scripts and any unused test papers are stored securely. If the school is still administering KS2 tests because they have permission to use a TTV, you should follow the guidance for carrying out visits during the test period.

Storing and dispatching test scripts

Unless the school has permission from STA to use a TTV to move a test by up to 5 school days after the scheduled test date, you should expect to see either:

- sealed script return bags, and any unused test papers, securely stored in a locked cupboard
- a proof of collection receipt to show that test scripts have been sent for marking

You should only find unsealed script return bags if the school is still administering a test using a TTV. Check that the rest of the cohort's KS2 test scripts are sealed in transparent

inner bags and securely stored in a locked cupboard. The script return bags should be sealed as soon as possible on the day that the TTV test is administered.

Schools will receive a collection on Friday 17 May if they have test scripts remaining.

If a pupil takes a test following an approved TTV, the school should book a separate Parcelforce Worldwide collection to send all remaining test scripts for marking. All test scripts must be sent for marking before schools break up for the half-term holiday. Make sure that the headteacher or delegated member of staff understands this.

Completing the monitoring visit form

You must complete the 2019 KS2 monitoring visit form (see section 2) for each school you visit. You must complete sections A and B in full. If applicable, you must also complete all of section C.

Make sure you include your monitoring visits co-ordinator's name on the form in case STA has any enquiries about the visit.

If the codes **X**, **N** or **P** are used, or you notice any other irregularity during the visit, contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

If you need further help, details of who to contact are provided in section 3.

Meeting with the headteacher

Before you leave the school you should meet with the headteacher, or delegated member of staff, to discuss your findings from the visit. If you have placed an **X** or **N** in any box on the monitoring visit form, you should advise whether the school should make changes to its test administration procedures for any remaining tests. If you did not find anything that concerned you, make this clear in your verbal feedback. Observed good practice should not be recorded on the monitoring visit form.

You and the headteacher, or delegated member of staff, should sign the monitoring visit form. This is to confirm the visit took place and that you have given any feedback about the administration of the KS2 tests to the school.

You should leave a copy of the monitoring visit form, and any delivery notes that you have annotated, with the headteacher, or delegated member of staff. You must not add any additional detail or make changes to the monitoring visit form after this point.

After the monitoring visit

You should discuss any findings from your visit with your monitoring visits co-ordinator as soon as possible after you have carried out your visit.

If you identified any irregularities during your visit, you must send the completed monitoring visit form to your monitoring visits co-ordinator immediately after the visit. The deadline for returning all completed monitoring visit forms to your co-ordinator is Friday 24 May.

2: Completing the key stage 2 monitoring visit form

2019 key stage 2 monitoring visit form

Section A and Section B of this form must be completed for all visits. Complete Section C if applicable. Only complete Section D if you have entered an X, N or P in Section B or Section C.

A copy of this form must be left with the school's headteacher, or delegated member of staff. Return the original to your monitoring visits co-ordinator.

School name												
DfE number					/						Date of visit	
Monitoring visits co-ordinator											Local authority	

Section A: general administration	Y/N	Notes
Q1. Have appropriate test materials been received?		
Q2. Is there evidence that the consignments were checked on arrival?		

Section B: KS2 test-specific information			Unopened test pack storage	Complete test administration process observed	Completed test scripts storage	Test scripts collected
Indicate the status of all test packs with ✓, X, N or P						
Test date	Subject	Test				
Mon 13 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling	Paper 1: questions				
		Paper 2: spelling				
Tues 14 May	English reading	English reading				
Wed 15 May	Mathematics	Paper 1: arithmetic				
		Paper 2: reasoning				
Thurs 16 May	Mathematics	Paper 3: reasoning				

Section C: KS1 test-specific information Indicate the status of all test packs with ✓, X, or N		Secure storage of test materials	Secure storage of completed test scripts
Subject	Test		
English reading	Paper 1		
	Paper 2		
Mathematics	Paper 1: arithmetic		
	Paper 2: reasoning		
English grammar, punctuation and spelling (optional)	Paper 1: spelling		
	Paper 2: questions		

Section D:

Only complete this section if you have entered an X, N or P in section B or C.

Short description of issues identified and any action you have taken:

Name of monitoring visitor		Headteacher or delegated member of staff	
Signature		Signature	

Please treat this form as confidential when it is complete.

Section A

You should ask to view the school's delivery notes to confirm that correct quantities of the test materials have been received (including KS1 materials, if applicable).

The delivery note should have been annotated by the school as evidence that the consignment was checked on arrival.

Section B

If **X**, **N** or **P** are used, contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 immediately for further advice. Discuss the issues with your monitoring visits co-ordinator as soon as possible.

Unopened test pack storage and unused test papers

You should ask to view the school's annotated delivery notes to confirm that correct quantities of test materials were received, and that they are securely stored in a locked cupboard including any unused test papers.

Use ✓ to indicate that you have observed the correct number of unopened test packs in a locked cupboard at a secure location.

Use **X** where a test pack has either:

- been tampered with
- been opened before the date in the statutory test timetable or more than one hour before the test taking place, without permission for early opening from STA

Use **N** where the number of test packs do not match the number listed on the delivery notes. You should include an annotated photocopy of the school's delivery notes when you return the monitoring visit form. Where you think the distributor is at fault, you should note it on the form.

Complete test administration process observed

You should check that:

- pupils are seated appropriately and are able to work independently
- wall displays are covered up or, if uncovered, do not offer any assistance or distraction to pupils
- the school adheres to test times
- test administrators, or other members of staff (for example readers, scribes or prompters), do not give inappropriate assistance to individual pupils or the group as a whole

- the school is administering the tests in the order published in the 2019 test administration guidance
- access arrangements are used correctly in accordance with the guidance
- completed test scripts (the test papers containing pupils' answers) are packaged and stored securely in a locked cupboard, waiting for collection

Use ✓ when the test administration is carried out in accordance with the 2019 test administration guidance.

Use X where there is reason to question whether pupils have completed the tests independently and unaided, where inappropriate support has been given or pupils have been cheating.

Completed test scripts storage

All test scripts must be collected from the test room immediately after the test and stored securely in a locked cupboard (including unused papers). They should be sealed inside the transparent inner bags as soon as possible on the day of the test.

Use ✓ or X to indicate whether this has been confirmed.

Test script collections

Parcelforce Worldwide will collect test scripts on the following dates:

School DfE number	Test script collection dates
Number ends with an even digit (including 0)	Monday 13 May (afternoon collections only) and Wednesday 15 May
Number ends with an odd digit	Tuesday 14 May and Thursday 16 May
Any schools that have test scripts remaining	Friday 17 May

Use ✓ when the completed test scripts have been collected and a proof of collection receipt is available.

Use X when the school has failed to prepare test scripts for the scheduled collection. Include the reason for this on the form.

Use P when completed test scripts have not been collected by Parcelforce Worldwide in accordance with the scheduled collection dates.

Section C

If **X** or **N** are used, contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 immediately for further advice. Discuss the issues with your monitoring visits co-ordinator as soon as possible.

Unopened test pack storage and unused test papers

You should ask to view the school's annotated delivery notes for KS1 test materials to confirm that the correct quantities were received. Confirm that they are securely stored in a locked cupboard.

Use ✓ to indicate that you have observed the correct number of unopened test packs in a locked cupboard at a secure location.

Use **X** where a test pack has either:

- been tampered with
- been opened before any of the KS1 tests have been administered

Use **N** where the number of KS1 test packs do not match those listed on the delivery notes. You should include an annotated copy of the school's delivery notes when you return the monitoring visit form. Where the distributor is clearly at fault, this should be noted on the form.

Completed test paper storage

KS1 test materials must be kept securely and treated as confidential from the point they are received in school until Monday 3 June. Appropriate security arrangements must be in place if test papers are being marked away from school or for transporting test materials to another location to be moderated.

Use ✓ or **X** to indicate whether the test materials have been kept securely and treated confidentially.

Returning the form

You must send completed monitoring visit forms to your monitoring visit co-ordinator by Friday 24 May. LA co-ordinators must return them to STA by Friday 31 May.

You can return the forms electronically, sending a scanned copy of the completed form to sta.monitoring@education.gov.uk (consider adding additional security such as password protection or encryption). Alternatively, you can send the completed forms in the post via track and send service to KS2 monitoring, Standards and Testing Agency, Cheylesmore House, Ground Floor South Building, 5 Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT.

3: Getting help

If you have questions about carrying out monitoring visits, you should speak to your monitoring visits co-ordinator.

If they are unable to help, you can contact the national curriculum assessments helpline.

National curriculum assessments helpline

Telephone: 0300 303 3013

Email: assessments@education.gov.uk



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