



# Guidance

## Transitory year guidance

Updated 7 September 2020

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### 1. About this guidance

This document provides guidance to schools on the assessment and reporting arrangements for pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum assessments and not engaged in subject-specific study at key stage 1 (KS1) and key stage 2 (KS2), in the 2020/21 academic year.

### 2. Background

Pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum assessments at KS1 and KS2 have been assessed using Performance scales (P scales) since 1998. Following the government response to the [Rochford Review consultation](#), the government announced plans to remove the use of P scales.

Schools are now required to use the pre-key stage standards frameworks for statutory assessment at the end of [KS1](#) and [KS2](#) for pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum assessments and engaged in subject-specific study, or who have not completed the relevant national curriculum programme of study. The pre-key stage standards frameworks replaced P scales 5 to 8.

For pupils at the end of KS1 and KS2 working below the standard of the national curriculum assessments and not engaged in subject-specific study, P scales 1 to 4 will be replaced with the engagement model.

### 3. 2020/21: Transitory year

Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions and impacts mean some schools are not prepared to fully implement the engagement model from the 2020/21 academic year. In recognition of this, STA has confirmed that 2020/21 will be a transitory year. Schools with eligible pupils who are ready to implement the [engagement model guidance](#) from September 2020 can do so, and schools that need more time to implement this change will have the option to assess against [P scales 1 to 4](#) for one final year.

The use of the engagement model will be statutory from September 2021.

### 4. Reporting requirements

Schools adopting the engagement model in the 2020/21 academic year are encouraged to follow the reporting requirements at the end of each key stage as set out in section 6.1 of the [engagement model guidance](#).

Schools continuing to use P scales in the 2020/21 academic year should follow the reporting requirements at the end of each key stage, as set out in the [Performance-P Scale- attainment targets for pupils with special educational needs](#) document.

### 5. Collection and use of data

The department will ensure schools' decisions to use the engagement model or P scales (1 to 4) for assessment and reporting at the end of KS1 and KS2 in the 2020/21 academic year has no negative impact on the calculation of their progress measures. We plan to say more in the Primary Accountability Technical guidance update in autumn 2020. Schools should decide whether to adopt the engagement model in 2020/21 based on how prepared they are to implement it.

### 6. Engagement model training

The engagement model training originally planned for summer term 2020 will be rescheduled in the 2020/21 academic year to support schools' adoption of the engagement model. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we will be introducing online training in addition to face to face opportunities. Schools will be made aware of training events via assessment updates and can sign up by contacting their regional training lead. Please contact [Engagementmodel@icat.org.uk](mailto:Engagementmodel@icat.org.uk) for further details.

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