



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Key stage 2 tests: returning test scripts

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1. Introduction

This document is for schools participating in the key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests. It provides instructions for completing attendance registers, returning test scripts for marking and submitting the statutory headteacher's declaration form (HDF).

It is the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that these instructions are followed correctly.

2. Changes in 2021/22

There are some changes to test deliveries and the process for returning test scripts due to a new supplier. These changes are as follows:

- there is now one attendance register per test paper
- slightly larger boxes are being used for test deliveries – test papers will be delivered in packs of 5 and 10 to minimise waste
- updates to stationery items — please do not use any stationery or bags from previous years
- braille scripts will arrive in a padded envelope — you should retain this for returning completed braille scripts
- pupils taking the braille version of the test should be marked as 'attended' on the attendance register
- the KS2 tests will be available in contracted braille and KS2 reading will also be available in uncontracted braille

3. Attendance registers

Attendance registers should be used to confirm whether or not pupils have taken a test and to ensure that pupils' test scripts are sent for marking. Information about which pupils should take the tests is included in this year's [KS2 assessment and reporting arrangements](#)¹. Test administrators should follow the instructions below to ensure attendance registers are completed and returned correctly, and that they account for all test scripts.

Attendance registers must be completed and returned even if no pupils took the tests. Section 3.4 provides a full list of the attendance register codes. It is important that the codes are used correctly to reflect the reason why a pupil did not take a test. If the incorrect code is used, or if no code is returned, the script will be deemed 'missing' and the school will be contacted for clarification of the script's whereabouts.

The English grammar, punctuation and spelling and English reading tests are separate subjects as they assess different aspects of the national curriculum. It is possible that a pupil can be recorded as working below the standard (B) for one subject (and therefore not take the test) but be working at the standard for the other subject (and take the test). More information about the use of the correct code is included in the KS2 assessment and reporting arrangements.

3.1 Subjects with multiple test papers

English grammar, punctuation and spelling and mathematics have more than one test paper. Pupils must take all of the test components in order to be awarded an overall test score. If a pupil takes one component of a test and not the others (attendance codes B, L, U, J, F or P), the pupil's status will be changed to absent (A) for all components of the test.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2022-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara>

3.2 Checking attendance registers

Please note that there are a number of changes to attendance registers from previous years. Attendance registers and other stationery items will now be part of your main test materials delivery, which will arrive before the tests commence.

Schools will also receive attendance registers for each test paper:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
- English reading
- mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
- mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

On receipt, you should check all your attendance registers are included and that the details on them are correct. The registers will be pre-printed with your school name, DfE number and pupils' details provided by your school during the pupil registration² process. You will also receive bags and labels to return KS2 test scripts for marking.

If the attendance register is damaged, you should contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 to request a reprint.

To ensure you are using the latest versions, please check the pupils listed on each attendance register and also the version number, for example 'V1'. Please destroy any older copies, and do not return these with test scripts.

3.3 Recording additional pupils

Use the space at the bottom of the attendance registers to record additional pupils who joined the school after the pupil registration deadline, whether they take the test or not, using the appropriate code in section 3.4.

Add any additional pupils in alphabetical order, by their surname. Include their forename, date of birth and gender in the appropriate columns. All additional pupils must also be added in the 'Manage pupil registration' section of the Primary Assessment Gateway³. This will remain open until the end of test week.

It is important to add pupils to the Primary Assessment Gateway as well as updating the attendance register as the pupil's UPN is used for downstream processing activities.

If you have made 6 or more changes before Wednesday prior to test week, you will automatically receive updated attendance registers before test week commences. To ensure you are using the correct registers, please check the version number and your pupil count.

3.4 Completing attendance registers

Using a black or blue pen, record the correct attendance code within the boxes (✓) for every pupil. You should contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 with any queries about how to complete the attendance register.

² www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-guide-to-registering-pupils-for-the-tests

³ www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk

This is an example of a completed attendance register.



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KEY STAGE 2: ATTENDANCE REGISTER			
School Name:			
DfE No:	No. of Pupils:	Page:	Date:

- Please refer to the 'Returning test scripts' instructions included in your stationery pack for full guidance on how to complete this attendance register. If you have any queries, please contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on **0300 303 3013**.
- Complete this form in **BLUE OR BLACK PEN ONLY**. When recording attendance, place a '✓' in the appropriate column.
- Record any **ADDITIONAL** pupils (not in the list) in the available spaces below, stating their forename, middle name, last name, date of birth and gender in the appropriate columns.
- Before completing this form, you **MUST** ensure that all additional pupils have been added in the 'PUPIL REGISTRATION' section of the Primary Assessment Gateway:
www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk.

ATTENDANCE CODES			
✓	ATTENDED	U	Unable to access the test
B	Child working below the standard	J	Just arrived at school
L	Left the school	F	Taking test in a future year
A	Absent for test	P	Taken the test in a previous year

Row No.	Pupil Forename	Pupil Middle Name	Pupil Surname	Date of Birth	Gender	ATTENDANCE										Row No.
						✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P			
1	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	01/01/2011	F	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	1		
2	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	2		
3	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	3		
4	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	4		
5	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	5		
6	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	6		
7	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	7		
8	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	8		
9	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	9		
10	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	10		
11	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	11		
12	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	12		
13	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	13		
14	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	14		
15	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	15		
16	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	16		
17	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	17		
18	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	18		
19	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	F	✓	B	L	A	U	J	F	P	19		
20	Example Pupil Forename	Example Pupil Middle Name	Example Pupil Surname	02/01/2011	M		B	L	A	U	J	F	P	20		
21							B	L	A	U	J	F	P	21		
22							B	L	A	U	J	F	P	22		
23							B	L	A	U	J	F	P	23		
24							B	L	A	U	J	F	P	24		
25							B	L	A	U	J	F	P	25		

Attendance register codes

The following codes are used on the attendance register:

Code	Category
✓	Attended the test
B	Working below the standard and did not take the test
L	Left the school before the test period
A	Absent and did not take the test
U	Working at the standard but unable to access the test even with the use of suitable access arrangements
J	Just arrived at the school and did not take the test because the pupil's standard could not be established
F	Taking the test in a future year
P	Taken the test in a previous year

Pupils taking the test in a future year (code 'F')

If a pupil has not completed the relevant programme of study and will take the test in a future year, they should be marked as 'F'. This code should not be used for pupils who were absent on the day of the test but may return to school before the end of the timetable variation period.

Pupils whose performance on the national curriculum cannot be established because they have just arrived in school (code 'J')

A pupil should not take the test if they have recently arrived in school and there is not enough time to determine whether they are working at the overall standard of the test. The pupil should be added to the test attendance register and record as 'J'.

Pupils taking braille versions of the tests

If you have pupils taking braille versions of the tests, you will receive these in a padded envelope. You should retain this envelope for returning completed braille scripts. Complete the attendance register for pupils taking the braille version of the test by recording the pupil as attended (✓).

Pupils who are absent on the day of a test

If a pupil is absent on the scheduled day of a test but there is the possibility that they may return within 5 school days and take the test using an approved timetable variation⁴, you should leave the attendance register blank for the pupil.

The scripts for the pupils that took the test on the scheduled day should be placed into the transparent inner bag, sealed and securely stored in a locked cupboard in the school along with the incomplete attendance register. Please see section 4.1 for further details.

Using the attendance registers to check the scripts being sent for marking

After the administration of each test, the test administrators should collate the test scripts and place them in the same order as the pupil names appear on the attendance register. We recommend that at least 2 test administrators undertake this process.

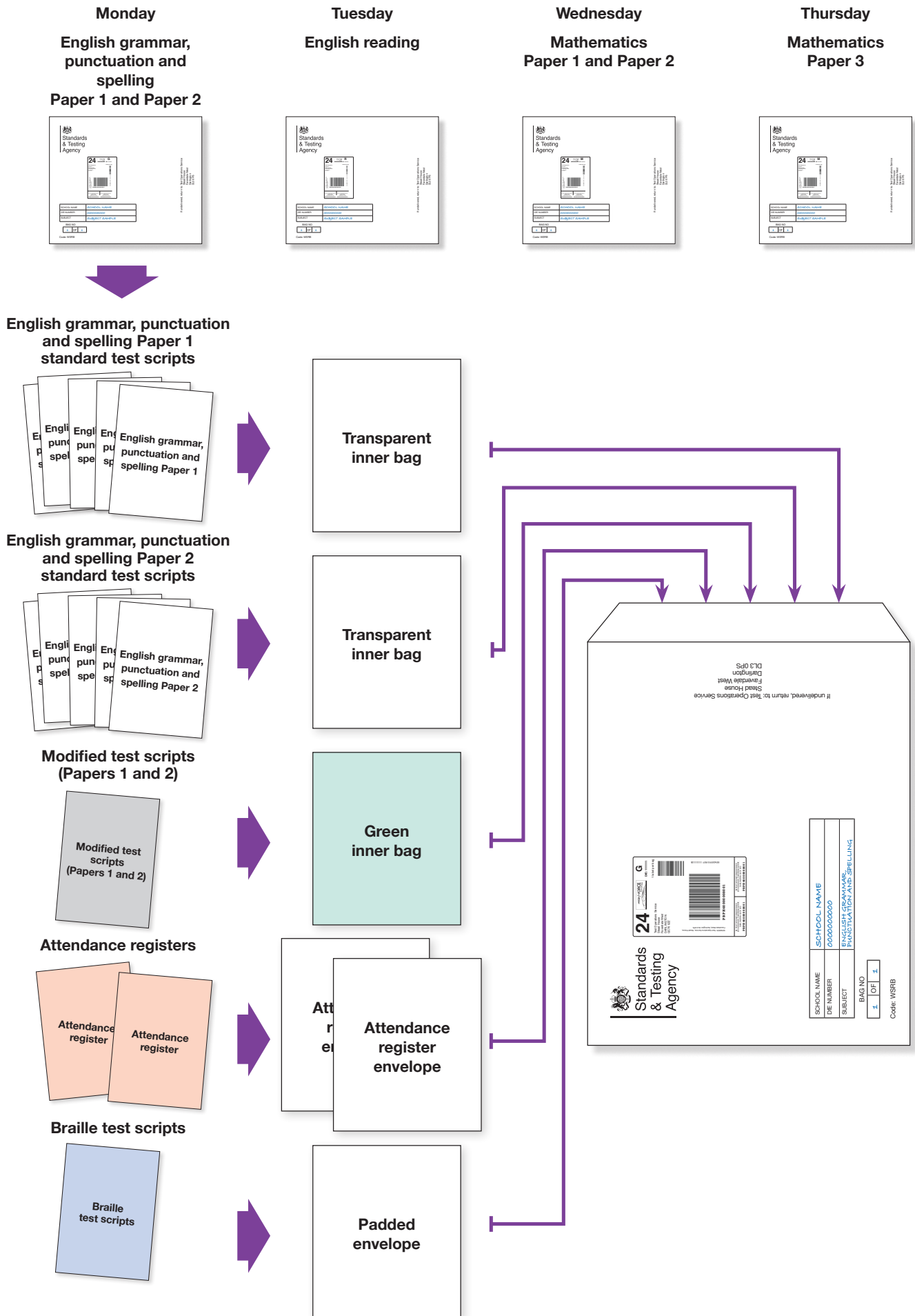
Check that the names on the attendance register match the names on the pupils' test scripts. If a pupil has used an alternate name on their test script, please add the name that appears on the attendance register next to the name the pupil has written on the front of the script.

Before packing test scripts, you should use the completed attendance registers to check and make a record of the total number of test scripts you are sending for marking, including scripts for pupils who took braille versions of the tests. This data is needed so you can submit the HDF. The 'Submit KS2 headteacher's declaration form' activity will be available in the Primary Assessment Gateway from 5pm on the Thursday of test week.

⁴ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-apply-for-a-timetable-variation

4. Packing test scripts for collection

Please see the diagram below for a quick guide on packing test scripts:



4.1 Timetable variations

If your school varies the start time of a test on the scheduled test day, or uses an approved timetable variation to administer a test to a pupil up to 5 school days after the day in the statutory timetable, you should ensure the security of test scripts is maintained (stored in a lockable cupboard) until all pupils have taken the test. Failure to do so could lead to a [maladministration investigation](#)⁵.

If you administer a test on the scheduled day in multiple sittings, ensure the completed test scripts are stored securely in a locked cupboard until every pupil has taken the test. When all pupils have completed the test on the scheduled day, the scripts should be sealed in the transparent inner bag.

Any additional test scripts administered on a later day using an approved timetable variation should be placed on top of the sealed inner bag and attendance register envelope and put in the white script return bag to be sent for marking.

Please ensure you have completed the attendance register correctly for all pupils who have used a start-time or timetable variation, marking the pupils as attended (✓), regardless of the day the test is taken.

4.2 Packing test scripts

When you pack the test scripts, you will need:

- all test scripts, including those with transcripts and printed answers from word processors or other technical or electronic aids, and modified scripts, whether these are modified materials ordered through the Primary Assessment Gateway or materials photocopied or modified in school
- completed attendance registers
- white attendance register envelopes
- transparent inner bags for packing standard test scripts
- green inner bags for packing test scripts with additional or modified elements
- white script return bags
- Parcelforce Worldwide address labels

You can order additional stationery pack items from the [Primary Assessment Gateway](#)⁶ from 2 weeks prior to test week commencing.

4.3 How to pack test scripts for marking

Step 1

After each test paper, collate the test scripts (for example, English grammar, punctuation and spelling test Paper 1: questions) in the same order as the pupils' names on the attendance register.

Step 2

Check the names on the pupil scripts match the names on the attendance register, to ensure that all scripts have been accounted for and that the correct code has been recorded (✓) for each pupil. There is one attendance register per test paper rather than per subject. These should be returned with the test scripts for that subject. The registers are colour coded by subject to help you collate them.

Remember to retain the attendance register if you are planning to administer the test on a later day using an approved timetable variation.

Only seal the attendance register in the white attendance register envelope once it has been completed for all pupils, including any who have taken the test using a timetable variation.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-varying-the-test-timetable>

⁶ www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk

Step 3

Do not include any of the following items with the scripts:

- printed copies of access arrangements applications or notifications
- correspondence concerning the tests
- older versions of the attendance register
- unused test papers

Step 4 (if applicable)

Separate test scripts with additional or modified elements from the standard scripts. This includes any of the following:

- modified large print (MLP) or enlarged print versions of the tests, supplied by the Standards and Testing Agency (STA)
- scripts that have been modified in school (such as photocopied onto coloured paper or enlarged)
- scripts with additional answer sheets
- scripts with extensive or full transcripts
- a pupil's answers printed from a word processor or other technical or electronic aid

Collate any loose sheets for each pupil, and fasten them together with a staple or treasury tag. This ensures that each pupil's responses can be provided together to the marker.

Put the scripts with additional or modified elements into a green inner bag and seal. There is one green bag for each test day. You can place different test papers in the same green bag, as long as they are for the same subject. For example, you could place modified scripts for mathematics Papers 1, 2 and 3 in the same green bag. Do not leave any green bags open overnight, even if you plan to administer a test using a timetable variation.

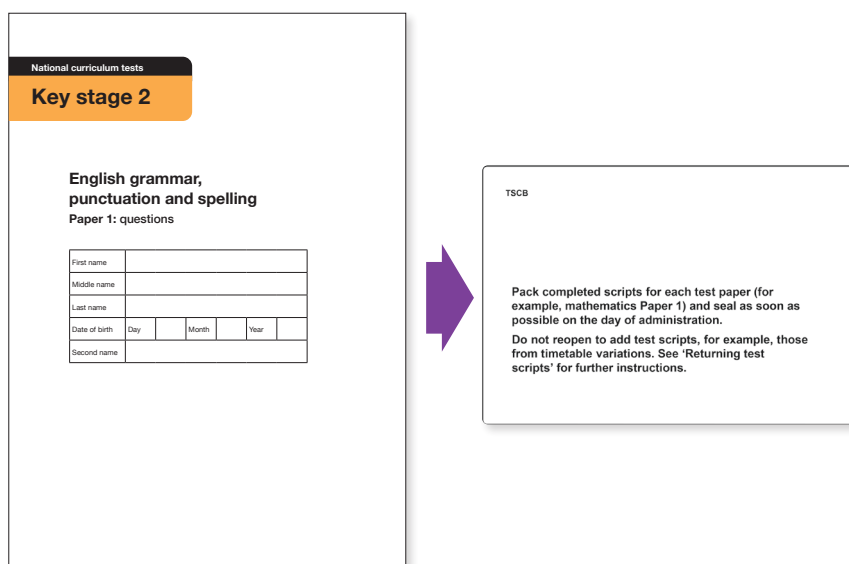
Scripts with additional or modified elements from tests taken using timetable variations should be placed on top of the sealed green bag containing any scripts completed on the published test day.

Step 5 (if applicable)

Place all completed braille test scripts inside the padded envelope the braille materials were delivered in, and carefully reseal it using tape. This should be placed on top of the transparent test script bag and the green bag, if you have used it.

Step 6

Put the collated standard test scripts into the transparent inner bag and seal. Do not pack test scripts for different papers together in the same bag. Do not leave any transparent inner bags containing test scripts unsealed overnight, even if you plan to administer a timetable variation.



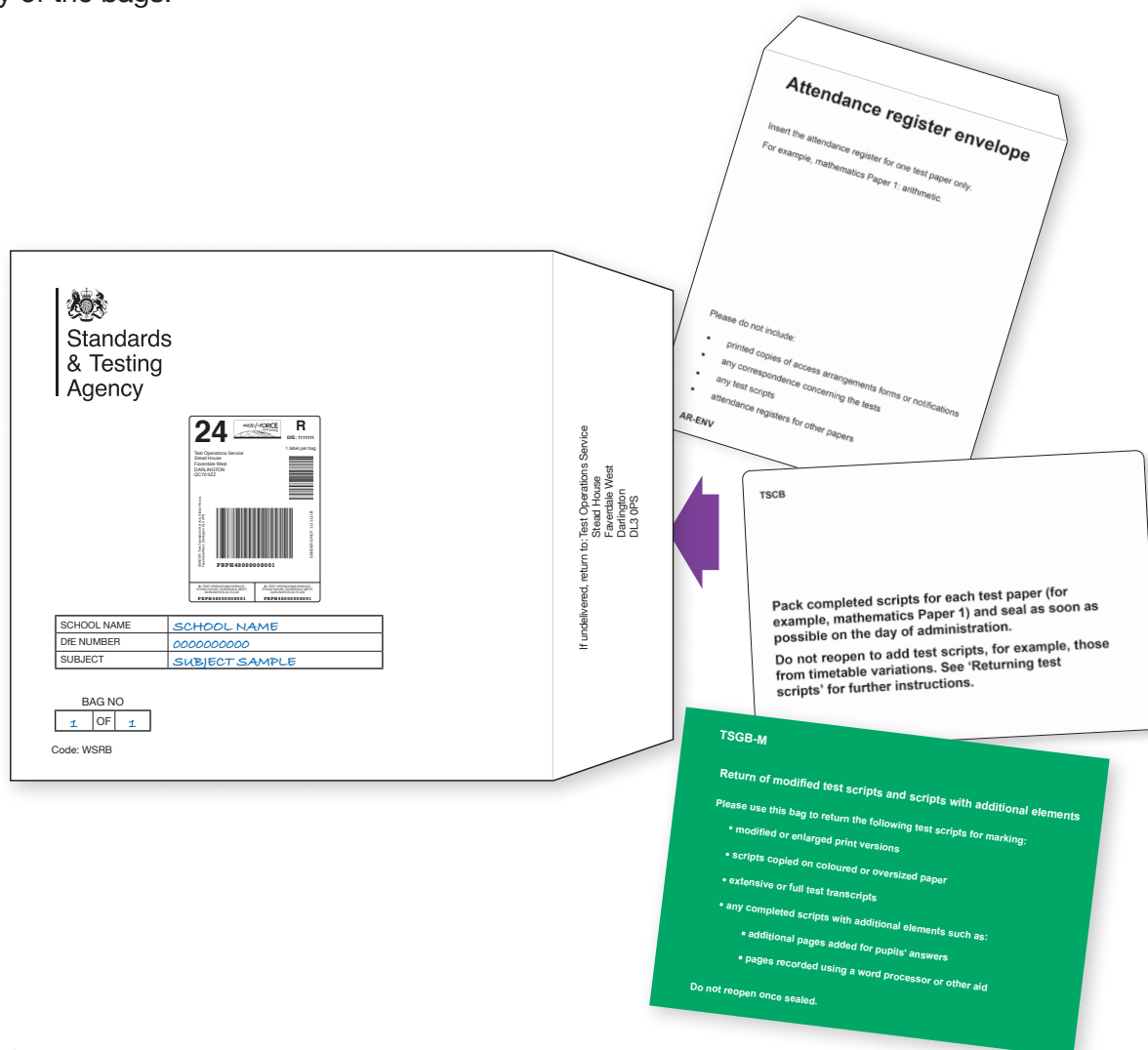
All transparent and green inner bags have a self-adhesive seal, but you may reinforce the seal with tape. Do not open the test bags once they have been sealed.

Step 7

For each subject, place the sealed transparent inner bags and any green inner bags into the white script return bags. Put the sealed attendance register envelope on top of the inner bags. There is an attendance register for each test paper, so you do not have to wait to return this with the relevant completed scripts.

Ensure all timetable variation test scripts are placed separately on top of the attendance register envelope.

You may use more than one script return bag per test. If you do, place the attendance register envelope in any of the bags.



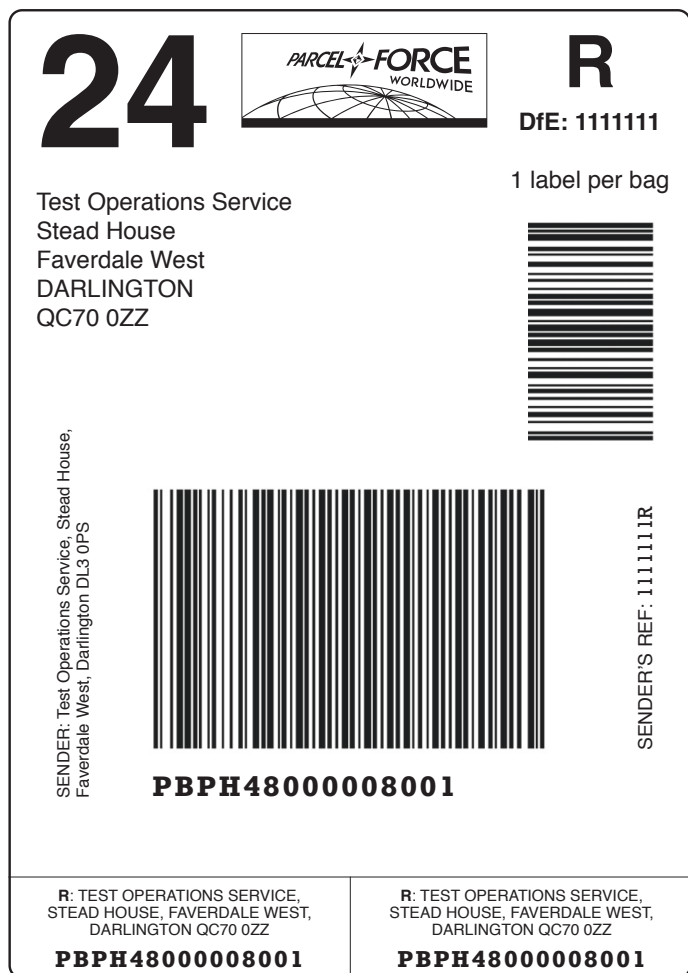
Step 8

The Parcelforce Worldwide address labels are subject specific. Check that the subject code in the top right-hand corner of the label matches the test papers within the white script return bag. It is best to apply the label before sealing the bags.

The subject codes are:

- G (English grammar, punctuation and spelling)
- R (English reading)
- M (mathematics)

This image shows an English reading label:



Label each bag as follows:

- Stick one large Parcelforce Worldwide address label for the correct subject onto each white script return bag. The labels are pre-addressed to our test operations service and should be stuck on the space indicated on the bag.
- Peel off one of the small consignment number labels and place it in the space provided on the Parcelforce Worldwide proof of posting receipt. The other small consignment number label can be disregarded. These labels show the Parcelforce Worldwide consignment number used to 'track and trace' the parcel.

Step 9

Before sealing each white script return bag, check the subject of the test scripts in each transparent bag. Complete the grid on the front of the script return bag by writing your school's name, DfE number and the subject of the test scripts that are in the bag.

Ensure you have included all test scripts for that subject.

Step 10

Seal the white script return bag by:

- removing the clear film from the lip
- firmly pressing the adhesive lip onto the plastic (you may reinforce the seal with clear tape)

Do not:

- use string to secure the packs as it may obscure the barcodes on the labels
- use staples to seal the bags
- attach 2 script return bags together

If you have used more than one script return bag for the same subject, make a record of this on the envelope and on your proof of posting receipt (for example ‘1 of 3’, ‘2 of 3’, ‘3 of 3’).

5. Test script collections

Proof of posting receipts are provided so you can track the delivery of your test scripts. You should complete and keep these receipts once you have packed and labelled the script return bags. Please ensure you:

- check that you have fixed the correct subject label (G, R or M) to the script return bag
- fix the small consignment number label from every script return bag to your receipt
- make a note on the receipt of how many script return bags you are sending (this must equal the number of small consignment number labels you have attached)

When test scripts are collected by Parcelforce Worldwide:

- sign the school signature box and enter the date of dispatch (the day the test scripts are collected) on the receipt
- ensure the driver signs the receipt
- return the signed copy to your headteacher

You should keep the proof of posting receipt in an accessible place as you may be asked to produce it in the event of a monitoring visit.

To track and confirm delivery of your test scripts, visit the ‘Track your parcel’ section of the [Parcelforce Worldwide⁷](http://www.parcelforce.com/track-trace) website. You will need to enter the consignment number from your proof of posting receipt.

5.1 Collection dates and times

If you have administered the tests to the whole cohort according to the test timetable, you do not need to arrange collections. Parcelforce Worldwide will visit schools on the dates shown in the following table. These are the only collections that should be used. Do not take test scripts to the Post Office or use any other carrier for mailing.

Ensure that your sealed white script return bags are ready for collection on the correct dates. You do not need to wait until the test period is over before you send your test scripts for marking.

DfE number	Test script collection dates	Test script collection times
Schools with a DfE number that ends with an even digit	Monday of test week	Afternoon collections only
Schools with a DfE number that ends with an odd digit	Tuesday of test week	Between 9am and 4pm
Schools with a DfE number that ends with an even digit	Wednesday of test week	Between 9am and 4pm
Schools with a DfE number that ends with an odd digit	Thursday of test week	Between 9am and 4pm
Any schools that have test scripts remaining	Friday of test week	Between 9am and 4pm

If your school misses a scheduled collection and has not applied for a timetable variation, the sealed test script return bags should be stored securely in a locked cupboard until the next collection date.

For further information, or if you have uncollected test scripts after the last scheduled collection date, contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

All unused stationery items should be kept secure until return of results. Schools should destroy them confidentially after this date.

⁷ www.parcelforce.com/track-trace

5.2 Collections following a timetable variation

If you have administered a timetable variation, the test scripts and attendance register for the rest of the cohort taking that paper must not be sent for marking until the last pupil has taken the test. See section 4.1 for details of how to securely store completed scripts while waiting to administer a timetable variation.

If a pupil takes a test after the final scheduled collection date that occurs on the Friday of test week, you should book a separate collection by contacting the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

When booking a collection, you should have your school's DfE number and address to hand as well as a contact name, phone number, collection date and collection location (for example, your school's main reception).

5.3 Ministry of Defence schools

MoD schools are provided with specific instructions for the return of their scripts for marking. You will also be provided with additional oversized polybags, in which you should place your sealed white script return bags for transport through the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) network.

All test scripts must be transferred using the BFPO special delivery services. The BFPO will act as a central point for the arrival of Ministry of Defence (MoD) schools' test scripts in England and arrange for onward dispatch for marking.

It is important that you pack and dispatch your test scripts:

- as soon as possible on the day of each test
- using only the stationery provided

6. Completing the headteacher's declaration form

Headteachers, or a delegated senior member of staff, must complete the 'Submit KS2 headteacher's declaration form' activity in the [Primary Assessment Gateway](#)⁸, after the tests have been completed.

The form confirms that you have administered the tests in accordance with the published guidance, or that you have reported any issues to the Standards and Testing Agency (STA).

The headteacher's declaration form (HDF) must only be completed and submitted after all test scripts have been collected for marking. The form is available to schools on the Primary Assessment Gateway from 5pm on the date outlined in the [KS2 assessment and reporting arrangements](#)⁹.

You will need to confirm the total number of pupils whose scripts have been returned for marking.

If you are unable to complete and submit the HDF, you should notify the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

⁸ www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2022-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara>

7. Returning test scripts to schools

The majority of test scripts are scanned and marked on screen, so they will not be returned to schools in hard copy.

Test scripts will only be returned to schools in hard copy if they cannot be scanned and marked on screen.

Test scripts that cannot be scanned include:

- modified or enlarged print versions that are not able to be scanned
- scripts that have been photocopied onto coloured paper
- enlargements of the standard versions of the tests that cannot be scanned
- extensive or full test transcripts
- scripts with additional elements, such as pages added for pupils' answers or answers printed from a word processor or other technical or electronic aid
- braille versions

If scripts cannot be marked on screen they will be marked on paper and returned by the 1st Tuesday in July, (please refer to the ARA) to coincide with return of results. If any test scripts cannot be scanned and need to be manually marked, we will return the original copies to your school on or before this date.

Schools must report missing hard copy marked test scripts immediately to the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

8. Recycling unused test materials and packaging

STA packages test papers in low-density polyethylene bags (LDPE4). While this material is recyclable, not all local authorities will process it so schools should check their local refuse and recycling policy. Alternatively, many of the larger supermarkets offer plastic wrapping recycling facilities. Schools using an independent commercial waste disposal service should confirm recycling provision with their supplier.

The boxes containing test materials are made from recycled cardboard and can be recycled again after removing any tape. Unused test papers, and their accompanying delivery note, can be safely recycled via your local authority. Packaging materials used to return KS2 scripts for marking are recycled by our external test operations service provider.



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