

A Guide to SATs

The teachers are constantly assessing the children through all that they do in school. Ongoing assessment is used to help planning further learning and to set individual targets. However, at the end of each school year, assessments are a little more formal.

The idea of the SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) is to show what pupils have learned and retained during their schooling. The tests help teachers learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of each child in different subjects.

The children are tested on all of the work they have covered in all year groups. SATs are statutory for the school to do at the end of Year 2 and Year 6, but we also use optional SATs in Years 3, 4 and 5. The children are tested in the following areas:

English

- a short writing task
- a long writing task (including handwriting)
- a spelling test
- a reading comprehension test

Maths

- a mental maths test
- a written paper without a calculator
- a written paper with a calculator (from Year 3 to Year 6)

Science

- teacher assessed throughout the year

It is important that children understand that they are not going to 'pass' or 'fail' a test. The tests will help them and the teachers to see what they know and what they need help with.

The results of the tests show whether a child has reached the expected National Curriculum level for their year group. The school is required to send results for Year 2 and Year 6 SATs to the LA (Local Authority).

Teacher assessment results are also reported. These carry the same weighting as the tests. Level descriptors in the National Curriculum are used as the basis for judging attainment.

It is expected that the majority of 7 year old children will achieve Level 2b by the end of Year 2. However, for some children, it is a real success for them to reach Level 1. A child achieving Level 3 is working at a high level.

It is expected that the majority of 11 year old children will achieve Level 4 by the end of Year 6. However, for some children, it is a real success for them to reach Level 3. A child achieving Level 5 is working at a high level.

Don't get too worried about these tests. Encourage children to be confident in their ability to do well and to do their best. You can help them by:

- make sure they get enough sleep
- make sure they have breakfast
- encourage them to ask the teacher if they are unsure of something
- explain that the SATs are a way of showing what they can do
- don't spend hours revising

If you would like to know more about assessment, or would like to find out ways to support your child's learning, please speak to the teacher.