



SFR 30/2016, 5 July 2016

## New key stage 2 assessments in 2016

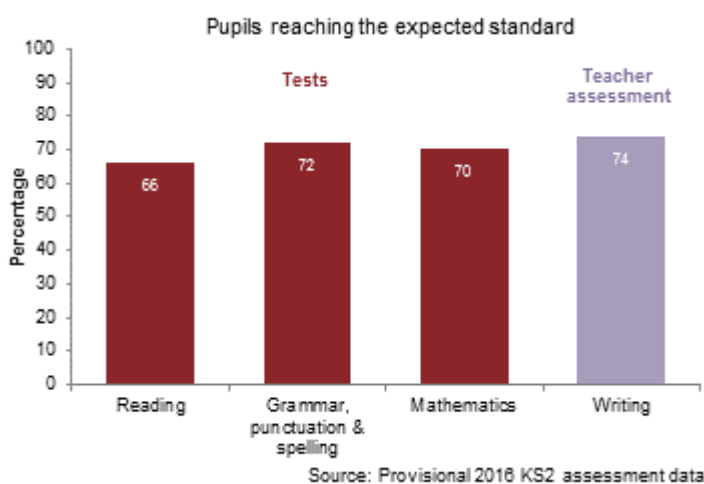
The 2016 key stage 2 assessments are the first which assess the new, more challenging national curriculum which was introduced in 2014. New tests and interim frameworks for teacher assessment have been introduced to reflect the revised curriculum. Results are no longer reported as levels, and each pupil will now receive their test results as a scaled score and teacher assessments based on the standards in the interim framework.

## 53% of pupils reached the new expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics

Because of the changes set out above, figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years. The expectations for pupils at the end of key stage 2 have been raised. Given the differences in the curriculum and assessments, levels are not comparable with scaled scores or teacher assessment outcomes.

See the [statement from the Head of Profession](#) for advice on comparability over time. More advice and context to support interpretation of the results in 2016 will be provided in the provisional KS2 SFR due to be published on 1 September 2016.

## Fewer pupils reach the expected standard in reading than in other subjects



The expected standard in the tests is a scaled score of 100 or above.

Attainment in the tests is highest in grammar, punctuation and spelling at 72% and lowest in reading at 66%. At 74%, attainment in the writing teacher assessment is higher than in any of the test subjects.

This is different from the pattern seen in previous years where attainment at level 4b or above was highest in reading and lowest in grammar, punctuation and spelling.

## The average scaled scores are similar for all subjects

### Average scaled score: England, 2016 (all schools)

Subject	Average scaled score
Reading	103
Grammar, punctuation & spelling	104
Mathematics	103

Base: all eligible pupils who were awarded a scaled score

Source: Provisional 2016 KS2 assessment data

The scaled score range runs from 80 to 120 with 100 as the expected standard.

The average scaled score for the grammar, punctuation and spelling test is slightly higher than for the other subjects.

### About this release

This is an additional statistical first release (SFR) as [announced](#) by the Head of Profession for Statistics on 3 June 2016.

The 2016 key stage 2 assessments are the first which assess the new, more challenging national curriculum. New tests and interim frameworks for teacher assessment have been introduced to reflect the revised curriculum. Results are no longer reported using levels and instead each pupil will now receive their test results as a scaled score and their teacher assessments as one of a number of categories.

In previous years, head teachers and parents had the previous year's results to benchmark their performance against. This SFR provides some key national figures to help head teachers and parents set the 2016 results in context.

### In this publication

There are no additional tables accompanying this release.

The full provisional data including breakdowns by school type and at regional and local authority level will be published on 1 September 2016.

### Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at [primary.attainment@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:primary.attainment@education.gsi.gov.uk).

## Advice from Head of Profession on comparability over time

Children sitting key stage 2 tests this year were the first to be taught and assessed under the new national curriculum. The expected standard has been raised and the accountability framework for schools has also changed. These changes mean that the expected standard this year is higher and not comparable with the expected standard used in previous year's statistics. It would therefore be incorrect and misleading to make direct comparisons showing changes over time.

For example, it is wrong to say that 'the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics fell from 80% in 2015 to 53% in 2016'.

In looking over time, all users of the statistics can say at this stage is that '53% of pupils achieved the new expected standard in 2016 when being taught and assessed against the higher standards expected under the new curriculum. Under the previous system, 80% of pupils achieved the standard that was expected under that system'.

Now we have data in, we will begin analysing the results to see whether we can provide further advice to support interpretations over the time series in the provisional SFR which has been pre-announced for release on 1 September 2016.

Iain Bell  
Head of Profession for Statistics  
Department for Education

## This is provisional data

All figures in this publication are provisional.

We will publish further provisional data in the 'National curriculum assessments at key stage 2 (provisional)' SFR on 1 September 2016. We will publish revised figures in the 'National curriculum assessments at key stage 2 (revised)' SFR in December 2016.

Any unplanned revisions will be made in accordance with our [Statistical policy statement on revisions](#).

## Further information will be available

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Local authority level figures	Local authority level data will be published in the provisional SFR in September.
School type and characteristics breakdowns	Breakdowns by school type will be published in the provisional SFR in September. Characteristics breakdowns will be published in the revised SFR in December.
School level figures	School level data will be published in the <a href="#">performance tables</a> in December.
Previously published figures	SFR47/2015: <a href="#">National curriculum assessments at key stage 2, 2015 (revised)</a> Primary school <a href="#">performance tables</a> 2015

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## National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## Technical Information

A quality and methodology information document will be prepared to accompany the provisional SFR in September. This will provide further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explain the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

National curriculum assessment figures published in this SFR are based on the data that will be used to prepare the 2016 primary school performance tables. This data will be shared with schools and local authorities as part of the checking exercise in early September 2016.

It is based on test and teacher assessment data provided to the Department by the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) on 1 July 2016. This data contained test results for over 99.9% of pupils who took the KS2 tests and teacher assessments for 98.5% of these pupils.

## Get in touch

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