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National Foundation for Educational Research
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Dear Parent/Carer

Trialling key stage 1 national curriculum mathematics assessment materials

We are writing to let you know that your child's school will be trialling national curriculum assessment materials for key stage 1 (KS1) in mathematics. The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is doing this work for the Standards and Testing Agency (STA), which is part of the Department for Education. Each year, the STA will trial potential future national curriculum tests with a representative sample of pupils and schools across the country. This trial plays a critical role in developing tests that accurately measure pupils' attainment and progress and ensure that individual groups are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged. Although KS1 national curriculum tests are now optional, there is still a legal requirement for selected schools to participate in trials.

Pupils will complete these assessments on a set date during the period 13 to 24 April 2026.

This project is confidential so no report of this work will identify any school or pupil that participates. Pupils should not be under any additional stress by helping with this research and trialling. The purpose of these trials is to '**test the tests**' and not the pupils. Our test administrators engage with the pupils and explain that they are helping with research, and they are often asked their opinion of the questions.

Pupils' background data will be collected from and confirmed with the school and will be used by STA in their analysis of the trial.

The privacy notice at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-early-years-foundation-stage-to-key-stage-3> sets out compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to ensure pupil data is securely processed. As these are tests in the development stage, schools do not receive results from these assessments.

Further information about these trials is available on our website:

<https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/2026-technical-pre-test-of-key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2-test-materials/>

Yours faithfully

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