

To: Headteachers of Primary and Special
Schools (Primary), Short Stay Schools
(Primary), and Support Services

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Your ref:
Our ref: LSIS/MT/PB/EW/CM/JB
Date: 11 September 2026

Dear Colleague,

Welcome back to the Autumn term, I hope that you had a good summer break and managed time to rest and recharge your batteries. Hopefully, term has started well, and children and staff are enjoying their return to school. I am writing with some brief updates regarding statutory assessment.

Key Stage 2 Data Checking Exercise

The 2026 KS2 September checking exercise **opened on Monday 7 September 2026 and will close at 5:00pm on Friday 18 September 2026**. Schools should check the data is accurate and consider any possible withdrawals that meet DfE criteria.

The website can be accessed here: [Check Your Performance Measures Data \(education.gov.uk\)](https://education.gov.uk) You will need a DfE sign in to access this portal.

For all applications, there is a list of evidence that is required and the guidance states that if all of this is not provided then the application will not be considered. The full guidance is available within your secure login on the above website and also through this link. [Key Stage 2 September Checking Exercise](#)

The criteria that is acceptable to apply for removal of a child's data from the schools' results are broadly the same as last year.

Firstly, if a child has been admitted from abroad with English not as a first language. The criteria required is:

- English is not their first language; and
- English is not an official language of their country of origin; and
- their **first** admission to a school in England was **on, or after, 1 September 2023**.

The guidance also states that removal requests may be considered if the child has been educated in more than one English school.

Other categories which may be applicable include:

- child missing in education,
- child joined the school after or after the first day of the summer term
- social care involvement.

These categories all have specific guidance which must be adhered to for the application to be successful.

Please do take time to read the guidance as it is substantial and may affect your cohort results from 2025/2026.

STA updates

STA release regular email updates regarding statutory assessments throughout the school year. These are usually sent fortnightly and will support you in identifying key dates and actions that are needed.

If you have not already signed up to receive these updates, then I would encourage you to do so. This can be done here: [Get Emails from GOV.UK](#)

Statutory Assessment in 2026/2027

The following statutory Primary Assessments will go ahead in 2026/27:

This includes the:

- End of KS2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- Reception Baseline Assessment
- Phonics Screening Check
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Completion of EYFS Profile
- Statutory Trialling

KS1 assessments remain optional. This includes teacher assessment in reading, writing and maths and KS1 tests in reading, writing and maths. There is no statutory requirement for schools to report data to the local authority or DfE. Schools also do not need to report results to parents.

STA will continue to develop and supply materials for reading, writing, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling if schools wish to use these for their own internal purposes. Further details can be found here: [Standards and Testing Agency - GOV.UK](#)

Reception Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment must be completed in the first six weeks of term, but this is now accessed via [DfE Sign-in](#). The assessment is now carried out by children interacting with a touchscreen device as well as verbally with the teacher. There are a range of videos and supporting guidance to support with administering the baseline on the new service that can be accessed here. [Reception baseline assessment- GOV.UK](#)

The Deadline for the completion of the Headteacher Declaration Form is Friday 6 November 2026.

The Assessment and Reporting Arrangements (ARA) for the Baseline can be found here: [2026 reception baseline assessment: assessment and reporting arrangements \(ARA\)](#)

EYFS Profile moderation sessions

During the summer term we led moderation sessions to support EYFS staff making their judgements for the statutory EYFS Profile. These sessions enabled staff to share guidance materials from DfE and take part in high-quality professional discussions. Due to the great success of the sessions, we are please to announce that they will be running again in May. Details of sessions will be released in the autumn term.



Updated statutory guidance documents (ARA)

The Standards and Testing Agency will be updating the Assessment and Reporting Arrangements (ARA) documents for EYFS, Phonics and KS2 for 2026/2027. These are expected to become available in the autumn term. They will be posted online at The Standards and Testing Agency and tweeted via [@lancsassessment](#).

There are considerable statutory requirements for Headteachers regarding assessment.

Once the ARA documents are released the Assessment Calendar that we produce will be sent to you with all key dates on.

Later in the academic year, I will run some free short webinars for Headteachers to talk you through these requirements. Details of these and how to access them will be communicated in due course.

Primary Accountability 2025/26

The Department for Education will update the Primary Accountability document, with information around the use of data from 2025/26. We are expecting this to happen in early autumn. Last year's document can be found here: [Primary Accountability](#)

Key stage 2 attainment headlines (provisional): 2025/26

On 16 July, the Department for Education released the KS2, 2024 provisional headlines for data. This document can be accessed here: [Key stage 2 attainment: National headlines, Academic year 2025/26 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Lancashire School Information Profile (LSIP)

For schools who buy into the School Improvement Service Guarantee (SISG) or have chosen to sign up for the Lancashire School Information Profile (LSIP) I am pleased to be able to say that work on these has progressed well over the summer holiday. The Pupil Characteristics section of the LSIP has been uploaded to Lancashire ROSE. This will be followed by the attainment sections soon. (This is considerably earlier than in previous years). Further information will be sent on their release and will all be available to you in your secure Lancashire Rose area. (<https://rose.lancashire.gov.uk/>)

LSIP Developments

- Interactive version
- Ethnicity – bar chart added
- KS1 broken down by SEND
- KS2 Progress charts returned
- KS2 results broken down by SEND and disadvantage
- Detailed Appendix with notes

Any Schools that do not buy into the School Improvement Service Guarantee and missed the opportunity to request an LSIP but wish to, please complete the following Micros form to sign up:

[Order for the Lancashire School Information Profile \(LSIP\) Primary Non-SISG 2025/26](#)

Tracking

The Lancashire Tracker continues to be available and training sessions can be arranged if required. If any schools are interested in using the Tracker or have any queries, please email Philip.Gittins@lancashire.gov.uk



Courses and CPD 2026/27

We are pleased to offer a full programme for Assessment Courses and CPD for 2026/27. As with each year, these have been evaluated and changes made to ensure that we are able to cover the requirements of Primary Schools. In most cases, courses have both venue and online options. As a team we are very happy to work with you to meet your needs for Assessment Training whilst being aware of the pressure on School budgets. As such, we can provide any training for individual Schools or for clusters of Schools, if that is beneficial.

Some key assessment courses to take note of:

[Data Informed Leadership: Navigating the IDSR and LSIP to explain your school context](#)

This full day course supports school leaders navigate the wide range of school-based data in order to celebrate a school's strengths, validate the leaders' development priorities, and highlight where improvement is needed.

[ASS151 Interrogating and Understanding the Lancashire School Information Profile \(The LSIP\) and The Closing the Gap Reports.](#)

This detailed course is ideal for School Leaders who wish to analyse their data early and feed the outcomes into their School Improvement Work

[ASS114 - Understanding Primary School Data 2025 \(A guide to the 2025/2026 data, The IDSR, ASP, LSIP\)](#)

This detailed course will provide an overview and reminder of the data including how to analyse and interpret it, identifying strengths and areas for development

[ASS103 - Effective Assessment for End of Key Stage 1: Life after SATS](#)

Focussing on strategies to support effective writing including accurate identification of next steps in learning and strategies to support these

[ASS184 - Year 6 Effective Preparation for end of KS2 SATS: Understanding the Procedures](#)

Focussing on planning for effective opportunities in children's writing and developing aspects of non-fiction writing to broaden the variety of written outcomes.

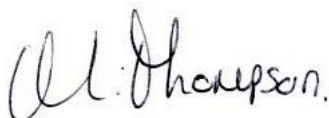
All Assessment courses can be accessed here:

[Assessment Courses](#)

All the courses can be adapted to individual schools or delivered to clusters/MATS etc. Please email mike.thompson@lancashire.gov.uk for further information.

I wish you all the best for the new academic year,

Yours sincerely



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