

ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

September 2025



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the new school year! From us all, we hope you had a relaxing holiday with plenty of time to rest and enjoy the many sunny days we had. To all leaders new to the county, we offer you a warm welcome and hope to see you soon at the leadership briefings. For your information, statutory processes are outsourced to us here at Keystone Academy Trust by Lincolnshire County Council.

Although all schools across Lincolnshire have received this newsletter (with a refreshed format!), to continue to receive further editions this year, you must subscribe to our Statutory Assessment Service for 2025-2026. This service provides you with a wealth of support and materials to keep those statutory processes as 'stress-free' as possible. This offer extends to all school types with further information available on the next page.

IN THIS ISSUE

Statutory Assessment Service

Information for schools wishing to subscribe in 2025-26.

National & Local Outcomes Moderation Review

An opportunity to reflect on last year's statutory processes.

September Checking Exercise

An upcoming action for schools.

Training Calendar, Key Dates and Actions 25-26

Helping you feel prepared for 25-26.



To find out more about us and what we offer, our website provides an overview of everything we do. The final page of this newsletter also has a full list of our training events for this year too. Thank you for your continued support, engagement and for all the positive feedback we receive. We really do appreciate it! We look forward to working with you again, and we wish you all the very best for this new school year.

Paul Singleton - Lincolnshire Strategic Assessment Lead / LA Moderation Manager

Statutory Assessment Service

All schools and academies (including free schools) must comply with the statutory requirements for the Phonics Screening Check and KS2 assessment. This includes the teacher assessment of writing and end of KS2 SATs for Year 6 pupils.



Academies, Free Schools and Independent Schools

It is the time of year when we ask **academies** whether they would like to be included in the LA's statutory processes for moderation and monitoring. Academies will have the option to be included in their geographical local authority's monitoring and moderation visit arrangements or be part of the arrangements of another LA. Academies must have a written agreement in place with their chosen LA, and if this will not be their geographical LA, they should inform both them and the STA of their choice by **Friday 9 January 2026***.

Participating Independent Schools must also report that they have a written agreement in place, via the National Curriculum Assessment Portal, with their chosen LA from Monday 13 October until Friday 5 December 2025*.

To select Lincolnshire as your statutory assessment provider, you must purchase the Statutory Assessment Service, in full, for the academic year 2025-26. Keystone Academy Trust provides this service on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

LA Maintained Schools

LA Maintained Schools receive their statutory monitoring for free as part of the arrangement Keystone Academy Trust has with Lincolnshire County Council. For LA Maintained Schools who wish to access additional training, resources and enhanced support from the Lincolnshire Moderation Team, they must also purchase the Statutory Assessment Service (LA maintained schools version) for 2025-26.

What next?

Further details about our offers, and how to purchase them, are available in the Statutory Assessment Service brochures attached to this newsletter or simply click the *Register Now* button above to sign up.

Please note, even if you elect to be part of this process this year, it does not mean you will be automatically selected.

We sincerely hope this is clear, however, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



NCA Portal

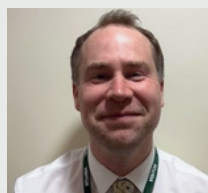
The PAG will close and no longer be accessible for schools from Friday 19th December 2025. The new National Curriculum Assessment Portal (NCA Portal) launches on Tuesday 23rd September 2025. STA will publish guidance on how to access the portal and user manage accounts on Monday 8th September. *Academies and Independent Schools monitoring and moderation local authority nomination form opens on Monday 13th October.

Please watch this space for further information!

Primary Accountability

The DfE has been unable to calculate KS1-KS2 progress measures for academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25. This is because there was no relevant KS1 data required to calculate the progress measures for these cohorts due to the COVID-19 disruption. It will be possible to return to producing KS1-KS2 progress measures in 2025-26 and 2026-27 (current Year 5 and 6). While it is still not known how progress will be calculated from the Reception Baseline (starting in 2027/28), do watch this space and be prepared for progress measures returning this time next year!

Welcome Andy!



We are delighted to welcome Andy Whiteway to the team as Senior Lead Moderator working alongside me, Jeannie and Gill.

Currently, Andy works at Tower Road Academy as Deputy Headteacher and is an experienced Year 6 teacher, senior leader and moderator. Prior to his role in Lincolnshire, he was Lead Moderator for Central Bedfordshire LA.

New to Year 6

Statutorily, we are required to contact schools to ascertain whether they have teachers new to Year 6. If so, please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the MS Form informing us of any new staff in Year 6 by Friday 17th October 2025.

We have a range of training courses for Year 6 teachers who are **new** to the year group, **returning** to the year group or for those who would like a **refresher** provided by the Lincolnshire Moderation Team. The training will support delegates with the statutory expectations for moderation, linked to the teacher assessment framework and provide an overview of the end of key stage statutory testing procedures. STA materials and advice will be shared as part of the training.

Dates and booking information for all our training is available on our training calendar (final page of newsletter).

For any new Headteachers or Senior Leaders/Teachers who wish to be added to our distribution lists, please also complete the MS online form by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Moderator Recruitment

Each year we aim to recruit new moderators to our team by providing the opportunity for those interested to apply for the role. This year, we do anticipate needing to recruit some new moderators and would welcome applications from interested practitioners. The moderator role is an exciting and rewarding opportunity that offers practitioners excellent CPD through a wide range of different experiences. This year, recruitment will take place across the Autumn Term to provide sufficient time for training and completion of the writing standardisation process during Spring Term 1.

All LA external moderators must:

- be qualified teachers with recent and relevant experience of assessment as well as internal and external moderation,
- successfully complete the STA standardisation process for moderation of writing,
- be able to systematically review evidence against the Teacher Assessment frameworks and adhere to STA guidance,
- manage a professional discussion with teachers about the evidence presented, and how a pupil's work meets the standard where appropriate, discuss and explain why a school's TA judgements cannot be validated,
- provide accurate written (using an online system) and verbal feedback to the teacher(s) and Headteacher.

We require new moderators to have at least 2 years experience of teaching Year 6 and to be also teaching in Year 6 this academic year. We also ask that they have recent experience of a successful Lincolnshire LA KS2 moderation visit.

If you have any members of staff who would like to be a moderator, then please ask them to complete the application form attached, together with your (Headteacher) endorsement. Please note we anticipate only a limited number of spaces this year, so your application may be kept on file for a future year if there is a high number of applications received.

Applications must be returned to Paul.Singleton@keystonemat.org by **Monday 1st December 2025**.



Key Actions for this Term

The following actions would normally be completed on the PAG by 14th November 2025. This year, we are expecting these tasks to be completed on the NCA portal.

- Maintained schools and academies order modified versions of KS2 tests.
- Participating independent schools order standard and modified versions of KS2 tests.
- Special schools, PRUs and secure units place KS2 test orders for pupils working at the standard of the test and able to access them.
- Schools submit their holiday dates.

September Checking Exercise

The 2025 Key Stage 2 September Checking Exercise will open at 9:30am on **Monday 8th September 2025** and close at 5:00pm on **Friday 19th September 2025**.

During the checking exercise window, schools will be able to check their data for 24/25 by ensuring the DfE have listed the correct pupils at the end of KS2, and, if necessary, submit requests to remove pupils.

Requests can be submitted to remove pupils from being included in the calculation of your school's performance measures for the following reasons:

- admitted following permanent exclusion,
- admitted from abroad with English not first language,
- child missing education,
- deceased,
- elective home education,
- one or more end-of-key stage assessments deferred by a year,
- permanently excluded from current school,
- permanently left England,
- pupil added to school roll after start of summer term,
- social care involvement including police,
- terminal/critical illness.

If your request does not fit into one of the removal categories above, you will not be able to submit a request to remove the pupil. All removal categories require information or evidence to be provided to support the removal request. All supporting information/evidence needed for each removal request must be uploaded to the secure CYPMD portal.

When your school has made all required individual pupil amendment requests, your school will need to submit a 'full return summary' on the CYPMD portal. Please refer to the 'How to' guide or video walkthroughs which will be available on the [CYPMD Help Centre](#) prior to the checking exercise opening to ensure you have a full understanding of when and how the 'full return summary' is submitted before this step is taken.

Once your school's 'full return summary' has been submitted, your school will no longer be able to request any further amendments to your data or amend any requests already made.

Please be aware that in previous years, this site has been very busy and/or crashed, so my advice is to check your data early! All relevant guidance for this is available to download on our [secure portal](#) for subscribing schools to our Statutory Assessment Service.



SATs QLAs available to download soon!

Soon you can find available on the DfE Secure Access, Year 6 QLA information for 2024-25. This allows you to assess how your pupils performed in the key stage 2 tests by subject strand, by question and by individual pupils and compare these with the national average.

Often this is a useful tool to benchmark your performance to that of the national against each content domain. In the next edition, you will find the QLA data available for the Local Authority.

Secure Resource Portal

For schools that subscribe to our Statutory Assessment Service, they will receive a new password to our secure resource portal via our [website](#). This is your 'go-to-guide' for all the necessary documentation that you will need for statutory assessment this year. The portal is regularly updated as new guidance is released, but also contains a wealth of other resources too.

Over the year, uploads will include: governor monitoring forms, test administration PowerPoints and a handy assessment calendar for your office wall! Everything is organised by heading, so we hope you can find what you are looking for easily!

National Outcomes 2025



Here is the national picture for KS2 SATs in 2025.

- 75% of pupils met the expected standard in Reading, up from 74% in 2024.
- 74% of pupils met the expected standard in Maths, up from 73% in 2024.
- 72% of pupils met the expected standard in Writing, an increase of 0.5 percentage points from 72% (rounded) in 2024.
- 62% of pupils reached the expected standard in all of R/W/M, up from 61% in 2024.
- 73% of pupils met the expected standard in GPaS, up from 72% in 2024.

Step 6 Explore data	
This is the latest data	
Key stage 2 national headlines 2016 to 2025 in England for 2024/25	
Move and reorder table headers	
	2024/25
Percentage meeting the higher standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling	30%
Percentage meeting the higher standard in maths	26%
Percentage meeting the higher standard in reading	33%
Percentage meeting the higher standard in reading, writing and maths (combined)	8%
Percentage working at greater depth in writing TA	13%

Further information from a national perspective at KS2, can be found on <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-2-attainment-national-headlines> with further releases expected in early September showing the national level data with pupil characteristic breakdowns and school characteristic breakdowns.

At the time of writing this newsletter, no national data has been released for the Phonics Screening Check or the Multiplication Tables Check but, historically this has been published further into the Autumn Term. All of this information will be available to read in our future newsletters.

Lincolnshire Outcomes 2025

Provisional data for Lincolnshire shows how each region of Lincolnshire performed in end of KS2 tests, which allows us to compare our performance to that of national outcomes.

Combined RWM EXS+ All Pupils					Reading EXS + All Pupils				
	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %	2025 v 2024		2023 %	2024 %	2025 %	2025 v 2024
Lincolnshire	56.2%	57.0%	58.9%	+1.9%	Lincolnshire	70.6%	70.8%	71.8%	+1.0%
Borough of Boston	59.2%	56.4%	60.2%	+3.8%	Borough of Boston	67.8%	67.7%	70.1%	+2.4%
City of Lincoln	50.4%	53.9%	54.7%	+0.8%	City of Lincoln	64.4%	68.7%	68.7%	+0%
East Lindsey	52.1%	53.4%	57.7%	+4.3%	East Lindsey	68.3%	67.1%	70.4%	+3.3%
North Kesteven	61.4%	61.8%	62.7%	+0.9%	North Kesteven	76.0%	77.3%	76.5%	-0.8%
South Holland	52.9%	54.6%	56.8%	+2.2%	South Holland	67.9%	66.7%	68.7%	+2.0%
South Kesteven	58.8%	60.7%	61.5%	+0.8%	South Kesteven	73.9%	73.6%	73.6%	+0%
West Lindsey	57.5%	56.0%	56.9%	+0.9%	West Lindsey	72.8%	71.6%	72.4%	+0.8%
Writing EXS + All Pupils					Maths EXS+ All Pupils				
	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %	2025 v 2024		2023 %	2024 %	2025 %	2025 v 2024
Lincolnshire	70.2%	70.7%	71.7%	+1.0%	Lincolnshire	70.3%	70.6%	71.7%	+1.1%
Borough of Boston	72.4%	73.5%	70.6%	-2.9%	Borough of Boston	71.8%	71.1%	72.9%	+1.8%
City of Lincoln	66.4%	67.1%	67.2%	+0.1%	City of Lincoln	67.5%	70.5%	69.3%	-1.2%
East Lindsey	67.0%	67.3%	71.3%	+4.0%	East Lindsey	67.5%	66.2%	70.3%	+4.1%
North Kesteven	74.1%	74.9%	76.0%	+1.1%	North Kesteven	74.9%	75.1%	74.4%	-0.7%
South Holland	68.3%	69.5%	72.2%	+2.7%	South Holland	66.1%	67.6%	69.4%	+1.8%
South Kesteven	71.9%	72.6%	73.8%	+1.2%	South Kesteven	73.2%	74.1%	72.7%	-1.4%
West Lindsey	70.4%	69.1%	68.4%	-0.7%	West Lindsey	69.2%	67.7%	72.0%	+4.3%

In Lincolnshire, provisional data for the Phonics Screening Check shows that 80.5% of pupils, in Year 1, met the expected standard in 2025. This is a 0.3% increase from 2024. Further LA updates will be provided in forthcoming newsletters.

Moderation Review

Last term saw the Lincolnshire Moderation Team conduct over 70 moderation and 80 monitoring visits across Lincolnshire and Peterborough; logistically, this takes a huge amount of planning and preparation! It is always a pleasure to see so much high quality writing from the pupils inspired by some excellent text choices. From our visits, here is a summary of some of the common areas for development.



- Whilst our moderators largely agreed with teachers' judgements, the common change down (although more judgements were moved up than down!) was securing evidence for GDS. Often, the child was a stronger writer in narrative than non-fiction. This is what stopped them from achieving the GDS standard. Therefore, consider your curriculum model carefully. Is there a clear balance of narrative and non-narrative text genres present, particularly to inspire those GDS writers, in the months leading up to the teacher assessment window?
- Where children were not deemed to be meeting the GDS standard, this was often because of insufficient evidence showing different levels of formality and maintaining the appropriate register. Often, there were too many lapses in formality particularly in non-fiction; your formal letter of complaint for example. If this is something that resonates, and you need some fresh ideas, Jeannie Bulman is delivering training on 'Achieving GDS in Writing at Y6'. Click [here](#) to book.
- Other aspects to be mindful of is having evidence to show children targeted for WTS can use capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contraction **mostly** correctly. It is important to evidence all these punctuation types across the collection. Also, consider your teaching of dialogue so that there is sufficient independent evidence for *'integrating dialogue in narrative to convey character and advance the action.'*
- Year 6 teachers told us that an excellent way to feel prepared for statutory moderation was to regularly moderate with other schools and attend termly LA moderation workshops. This allowed them a wider sample of pupils' writing to moderate against, magpie new ideas and kept them abreast of all the latest developments and updates from the STA.

Primary Assessment Dates

- **Reception baseline assessment** – to be completed in the first 6 weeks after entering Reception.
- **EYFS Profile Assessment** - to be completed between April and June of the academic year the child turns 5.
- **Optional Key Stage 1 tests** - It is recommended they are administered during May 2026.
- **Phonics Screening Check** – week commencing Monday 8 June 2026 for the Screening Check.
- **Key Stage 2 tests** – the tests are timetabled from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026.
- **Multiplication tables check** – administered within the 2-week period from Monday 1 June 2026.

Key Contacts



Paul Singleton

Lincolnshire Strategic Assessment Lead
LA Moderation Manager
Paul.Singleton@keystonemat.org
01778 424152 (option 3) or 07587668737



Andy Whiteway

Senior Lead Moderator
Andy.Whiteway@tr.keystonemat.org



Dr Jeannie Bulman

Senior Lead Moderator
Jeannie.Bulman@keystonemat.org
07557771893



Gill Arnold

Moderation Project Manager
Gill.Arnold@keystonemat.org
01778 424152 (option 3)

Lincolnshire Moderation Training Calendar 2025-26

Date	Times	Event	Location	Cost
17.10.25	9:15 - 3:00	New to Year 2	The Regatta, Lincoln	£99
6.11.25	9:15 - 3:00	New to Year 6	Keystone Training Room, Bourne**	£99
7.11.25	9:15 - 3:00	New to Year 6	The Regatta, Lincoln	£99
13.11.25	9:15 - 12:15	Year 2 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70
19.11.25	1:15 - 4:15	Year 6 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70
20.11.25	1:15 - 4:15	Year 6 Writing Moderation Workshop	Keystone Training Room, Bourne**	£70
27.11.25	3:45 - 5:30	Access Arrangements	Virtual	FREE*
4.12.25	3:45 - 5:30	Pre-Key Stage Standards - Repeat	Virtual	£125****
14.1.26	3:45 - 5:30	New to Year 6 for January Starters	Virtual	£50
28.1.26	3:45 - 5:30	Planning for Independent Writing	Virtual	£50
3.2.26	3:45 - 5:30	Administering the Phonics Screening Check	Virtual	£50
11.2.26	9:15 - 12:15	NEW - Pre-Key Stage Standards for KS2	The Regatta, Lincoln	£125*****
25.2.26	9:15 - 12:15	Year 2 Writing Moderation Workshop	Keystone Training Room, Bourne**	£70
26.2.26	1:15 - 4:15	Year 6 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70
5.3.26	1:15 - 4:15	Year 6 Writing Moderation Workshop	Tower Road Academy, Boston	£70
6.3.26	9:15 - 12:15	Year 2 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70
10.3.26	3:45 - 5:30	Effective assessment in non-statutory year groups	Virtual	£50
17.3.26	3:45 - 5:30	Achieving GDS in Writing at KS2	Virtual	£50
25.3.26	9:15 - 12:15	Year 1 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70 or £150***
25.3.26	1.15 - 4:15	Year 3 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70 or £150***
26.3.26	9:15 - 12:15	Year 4 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70 or £150***
26.3.26	1:15 - 4:15	Year 5 Writing Moderation Workshop	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70 or £150***
28.4.26	3:45 - 5:30	SATs Administration	Virtual	FREE*
5.5.26	3:45 - 5:30	Preparing for the Y4 Multiplication Check	Virtual	£50
20.5.26	1:15 - 4:15	Year 6 Writing Moderation Workshops	Boston United Football Club	£70
21.5.26	9:15 - 12:15	Year 2 Writing Moderation Workshops	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70
21.5.26	1:15 - 4:15	Year 6 Writing Moderation Workshops	The Regatta, Lincoln	£70

*included within the Lincolnshire Statutory Assessment Service (KS1 & KS2). £50 charge, per person, for non-subscribing schools. Subscribing schools' membership also entitles one person to attend two further virtual training events for FREE chosen at the time of subscribing.

The Keystone Training Room based at Bourne Westfield Primary Academy. * £150 charge includes a copy of the Year 1,3,4 and 5 Moderation Book.

****£125 charge includes a copy of the PKS Moderation Book for Standards 1-4 in Reading, Writing and Maths.

*****£125 charge includes a copy of the NEW Moderation Book for Pre-Key Stage Standards using KS2 inspired work.