



Key Stage 1 SATs

Information for Parents

All schools teach from the National Curriculum and SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) are taken by children at the end of Key Stage 1, as well as Key Stage 2, to make sure that all children are making sufficient progress.

Currently, the law says that -

- ⇒ All children must take the national tests at the end of Key Stage 1, unless they have not yet reached the agreed standard.
- ⇒ Testing must take place in May, however there is not a fixed timetable and so, if your child is away from school for a day, they can take the test at another time.
- ⇒ 7 year olds are tested in reading and maths.
- ⇒ They are also assessed in writing and science.
- ⇒ The tests are marked by the Key Stage 1 teacher.
- ⇒ In addition, the Year 2 teacher collects assessment information throughout the year and it is on the basis of this data, as well as the formal SATs tests, that the children are graded in reading, writing, maths and science.
- ⇒ Moderators regularly come into schools (about every 4 years) to check that all Year 2 teachers are marking correctly. This ensures that all the results nationally are completely fair.

What do the Key Stage 1 Tests involve?

Reading -

- ⇒ Most children will work through two reading tests. The tests focus on the children's ability, not only to read, but to

understand what they have read. They work through these tests independently. The first test should take around 30 minutes and the second around 40 minutes, however they do not have to be strictly timed.

Maths -

⇒ Most children have to take two maths tests. The first focuses on number and calculation skills, while the second focuses on mathematical reasoning and problem solving. The second paper also includes five questions that are read to the children by the teacher.

What do the Key Stage 1 Assessments involve?

Writing -

⇒ The assessment of writing involves the following -

- the content of the text
- the sentence structure
- the use of specific features, e.g. adjectives, adverbs, paragraphs
- the punctuation
- the grammar
- the handwriting

The year 2 teacher looks at a variety of independently completed pieces of writing by each child and takes the above list into consideration when assessing their work.

Science -

The teacher assesses a child's understanding, not only of the discrete topics taught in science, e.g. Materials, Living Things and their Habitats, but also their understanding of scientific investigation.

What does assessment involve at Holy Trinity?

Different schools adopt different methods of assessing children's progress.

At Holy Trinity, all the children do regular, in-class assessments that serve to build up a picture of their academic progress. This is also

done so that the teacher can plan to meet the individual needs of the children.

We do not teach 'to the end of year tests'; instead we aim to educate children in an exciting way that ensures that they reach their own academic potential.

How are the results recorded?

Children's competence in the different subjects is given a grading as follows -

- Below the expected standard (BLW)
- Towards the expected standard (WTS)
- At the expected standard (EXS)
- At greater depth within the expected standard (GDS)

⇒ The results are given to parents with the annual report.

What information is used to decide the grading at which children are working?

Those of us who have taken tests or exams in the past may feel that, for the Key Stage 1 SATs, the tests that the children will take in reading and maths will automatically give the grading. However, this is not the case.

Instead, the teacher takes the overall picture of a child's performance both in day-to-day classwork - both oral and written - as well as in formal and informal tests.

In addition, it is important to note that in order for, for example, a child to be working at the expected level in writing, they need to be performing at the expected level in all areas of writing. So if, for example, a child rarely uses a full stop, that seemingly simple thing could mean that they are working at 'Working Towards' in writing, rather than 'Expected'.

Taking the tests

⇒ All children have to take the tests unless there is a very good reason. Reasons for not taking a test may include a total lack of English or serious illness.

- ⇒ Parents are unable to withdraw their children because they do not agree with testing or because they think it may upset them.
- ⇒ Occasionally, the teacher may feel that a child is not ready, academically, to take a particular test. When this is the case, the child will work through some tasks with the teacher.

Preparation for the Tests

- ⇒ The teacher gets most of her knowledge about a child's academic progress from the work that they produce throughout the year. After all, the children are still young and will not always 'perform' on the day of the test.
- ⇒ The tests can be tiring but fun - experience shows that the greater majority of children love doing some special work in colourful booklets. So at home, plenty of opportunities to relax, get some fresh air and exercise at the end of the school day are perhaps the best preparation.

Hopefully, this information will have answered any questions you may have had about SATs. However, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Matthews should you have any further queries.