

National Curriculum Teacher Assessments at Key Stage 3

The Key Stage (KS3) teacher assessment data has been published alongside GCSE and Equivalent Examination results to create a single statistical release for secondary school attainment.

Pupils in state-funded schools, including most academies and free schools, are required to take part in National Curriculum assessments when they reach the end of the KS3 programme of study, typically aged 14.

Pupils' attainment is assessed in relation to the National Curriculum programmes of study, and pupils are awarded levels on the National Curriculum scale to reflect their attainment.

Figure1: Age of child related to year group, Key Stage & expected attainment

Typical age of child (years)	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
National Curriculum Year Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Key Stage	1	2		3			4		
Expected National Curriculum level at end of Key Stage	2	3		4			5/6		

Teacher Assessments at KS3 are made in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science and also in the non-core subjects, such as geography, art and music.

Results from non-core subjects are no longer collected centrally and cannot be reported in this statistical release. Statutory tests are no longer taken by 14-year olds. The collection of results for non-core subjects and statutory tests both ceased in 2008.

All pupils in their final year of a Key Stage must be assessed. Pupils may complete the programme of study for KS3 before year group 9, in these cases the trigger for reporting is that point and not the end of year 9 although most 14 year olds will be in year group 9 and at the end of KS3.

Pupils may complete the Key Stage programme of study in different years for different subjects.

When presenting analyses that refer to 'expected level' at KS3, the Department's practice is to measure against those pupils achieving Level 5 or above.

TABLES

Table 1: National Key Stage 3 teacher assessment levels of attainment by subject and gender, 2012, England.

Table 2: Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above in the Key Stage 3 teacher assessments by Local Authority (LA), Region, subject and gender, 2012, England.

Table 3: Percentage of pupils achieving Level 6 or above in the Key Stage 3 teacher assessments by Local Authority (LA), Region, subject and gender, 2012, England.

All tables are available on the DfE statistics website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001094/index.shtml>

Source of data

The Key Stage 3 statistics published in this SFR are produced from data provided to the Standards and Testing Agency as at 30th July 2012.

Coverage

National figures cover all schools in England with pupils eligible for assessment at Key Stage 3 in 2012; submissions covering 89.8% of pupils were available in the data used. However, as participation by independent schools is voluntary, the national analyses only include results from those independent schools which chose to make a return and which met the statutory standards for assessment and moderation.

For the calculations showing the percentage of pupils achieving a particular level, the denominator for national results is the number of pupils who are eligible for teacher assessments. This denominator includes pupils who were working towards level 1 (W), were disapplied from the National Curriculum (D), or were significantly absent so that no TA could be made on that pupil (A). Pupils with missing, or invalid results are not included.

Local Authority figures cover state-funded mainstream and special schools only; they exclude state-funded hospital schools and pupil referral units. Two different calculations of the national results are presented in the local authority tables: one which is consistent with the national results table which is based on all schools (i.e. all state-funded and independent schools that returned assessment results); and the second for state-funded schools only (excluding state-funded hospital schools and pupil referral units), consistent with the results for each LA.

Rounding

Any percentages are given to zero decimal places. The rounding convention is as follows: any fractions of 0.5 and above will be rounded up, anything less than 0.5 will be rounded down, e.g. 85.4586 will be rounded to 85; 85.5 and 85.5283 will be rounded to 86.

Notation used in tables

A single dot (.) is used in the tables published in this release to signify data not available.