

# St George's Catholic Primary School

## KS1 SATs

### Information for parents

#### What happens when it's SATs time

##### **Overview**

During Year 2, all children who will be seven in this academic year are assessed against national standards. This is known as SATs. The assessment will take the form of teacher assessment and some tests which are designed to check that children in all schools are making progress. This leaflet looks at what actually happens during the assessment period and how you can help your child.

##### The law says

- All children must be assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. That means at the end of the infants (year 2) and at the end of the juniors (year 6).
- Assessment in KS1 takes place as part and parcel of the normal routine but some tests are used to confirm teacher assessment. These tests take place in May.
- The school is not obliged to report to parents the results of the tests, although parents may request these for their own child. The level reported to you is a teacher assessment which has been reached as a result of both testing and other on-going assessment.
- 7-year-olds are assessed in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Science and Maths.
- Key Stage 1 teachers assess and mark the tests themselves, with their conclusions checked by the authority's moderators in order to ensure consistency across the Local Authority.

## What happens at Key Stage 1?

None of the assessments have a set time limit and children can take as long as they need within reason.

### Reading

Some time from January to May, some children will read individually to a teacher or experienced teaching assistant from a list of approved books. They will share the reading with the teacher for some of the book, then read part of it without any help and answer some questions to show that they understand the story.



Then, during May, most pupils will do a written comprehension. The children will have a booklet containing a story and some information or non-fiction writing, which they will read and then answer questions about.

More able readers will be tested with a different comprehension booklet. This one will be a harder text to read and have more complicated questions to answer. The teacher will judge which test is the best one for your child and it will depend upon the level at which they are working at the time of the tests.

All children will either do the reading task or written comprehension test. Some may do both.

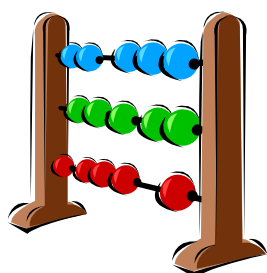
### Spelling

Children have another booklet in which they write spellings of common words as the teacher reads them out. The spelling mark is no longer reported separately but is added to the writing mark.

### Writing

Teacher assessment is ongoing during the year but in addition to this during the assessment period your child will do 2 pieces of writing, one short and one longer. These will be used to see how well your child can describe and explain things, use punctuation, spell and plan a piece of work. Handwriting will also be judged. The teacher will talk to the children before the activity and explain what is expected, but during the test the children must work independently.

### Maths



As in the other areas teacher assessment is ongoing during the year but in addition to this children work through booklets of maths questions covering all of the work they have been doing in their numeracy lessons. This includes mental maths, number, shape, measuring, simple fractions, data handling and problem solving. Your child is allowed to use some equipment for counting and have a ruler, but, as in all the other tests, they are expected to work out the answers on their own. There may be questions for which they will have to write an explanation of their 'working out'. Children can ask the teacher to read the questions to them and the written answers are not judged on spelling or handwriting. There are 2 separate ones and your child will sit the paper which reflects the level they are working at. A few children who are working at a lower level will do a maths task with the teacher.

## Science:

The school will report teacher assessments for Science. This assessment is based upon work done throughout the year with greater weighting given to using and applying scientific concepts.

### **Does my child have to be assessed?**

Yes, unless the school can give a very good reason why they shouldn't. Severe learning difficulties, total lack of English or serious illness resulting in prolonged absence from school are the kinds of reasons accepted. Unfortunately, you can't withdraw your child because you don't agree with testing or because you think it might upset them.

In fact, only a tiny fraction of children in state schools miss the national tests.

### **What happens if my child misses a test?**

At Key Stage 1, teachers will arrange for your child to take it at another time.

### **What happens if my child isn't ready for the tests?**

At Key Stage 1 the teacher may decide to begin by giving your child individual tasks instead. These are a little easier than the tests. If they do well on the tasks, then they will have a go at the tests.

### **What happens to the other children in the school?**

They continue with their normal work. The government has produced tests for children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and, although they are optional, schools are using them during SATs time to check that the other children are making progress. Year 6 pupils undertake the SATs during May.

### **How you can help**

- Don't take your child on holiday during term time. The school will not authorise absence for holidays during May unless the circumstances are exceptional.
- Try not to make a big thing of it. Not every child deals with testing well. The tests are used to inform the teacher assessments which take account of your child's work over the whole year. This helps to give a balanced picture of what they can do.
- You can practise some of the activities at home. Use the homework for some work to do with your child. Don't move on to new ground too fast. Make sure that they are confident at one level before moving on to more complicated tasks.

### **To sum up**

National tests are useful information to your child's teachers and to the government but have little impact on the day to day experience of the child in the classroom. This is because the emphasis is solely on the child's performance over time. When the moderators come in they look at a range of the children's work and look to see if the on-going assessment of the child is accurate. It's important to get them in proportion. They are just one of the ways the school works out how well your child is doing. They shouldn't be stressful, and in fact many children enjoy the challenge of short tests, as long as they know they have your support and understanding.

