

SAT's for Year 6 Pupils in 2016

A Parent's Guide...



What Does SAT's Actually Stand For ?

It stands for Statutory Assessment Tasks and Tests. This also includes any Teacher Assessment undertaken in school. These tests are undertaken in Year 2 (age 7) and Year 6 (age 11).

I Heard That The Tests Have Changed This Year - Is That Right ?

Yes it is. In September 2014 the Government brought in a new national curriculum. It gave schools two years to implement the changes to the curriculum before it tested children on them. The first tests for that new curriculum will be in May 2016. The new curriculum brought new standards and as such new tests.

What Are The Changes ?

1. The mental maths test has been replaced with a new Arithmetic Test.
2. There are no Level 6 tests. However, the new tests will include questions to stretch and challenge the most able pupils.

How Are Children Assessed ?

Children are assessed in two ways : through a series of tests and through the teacher's own assessments. These tests will take place in 2016 from the 9th to the 12th May.

What Is The Difference Between The Tests And The Teacher Assessment ?

Teacher assessments draws on everything a child has undertaken or achieved in school - including tests, marking, observations and any formal / informal assessments. Teacher assessment is not a 'snapshot' like the tests and can therefore be considered more of an accurate record. In some cases, there will be a difference between what the teacher assessments concludes and what the tests outcomes are.

The tests assess a pupils ability to draw upon their knowledge, skills and abilities in a more focussed way. They demonstrate a child's performance on one day, at one time - unlike teacher assessment which focuses on achievement over time.

What Will The Results Look Like ?

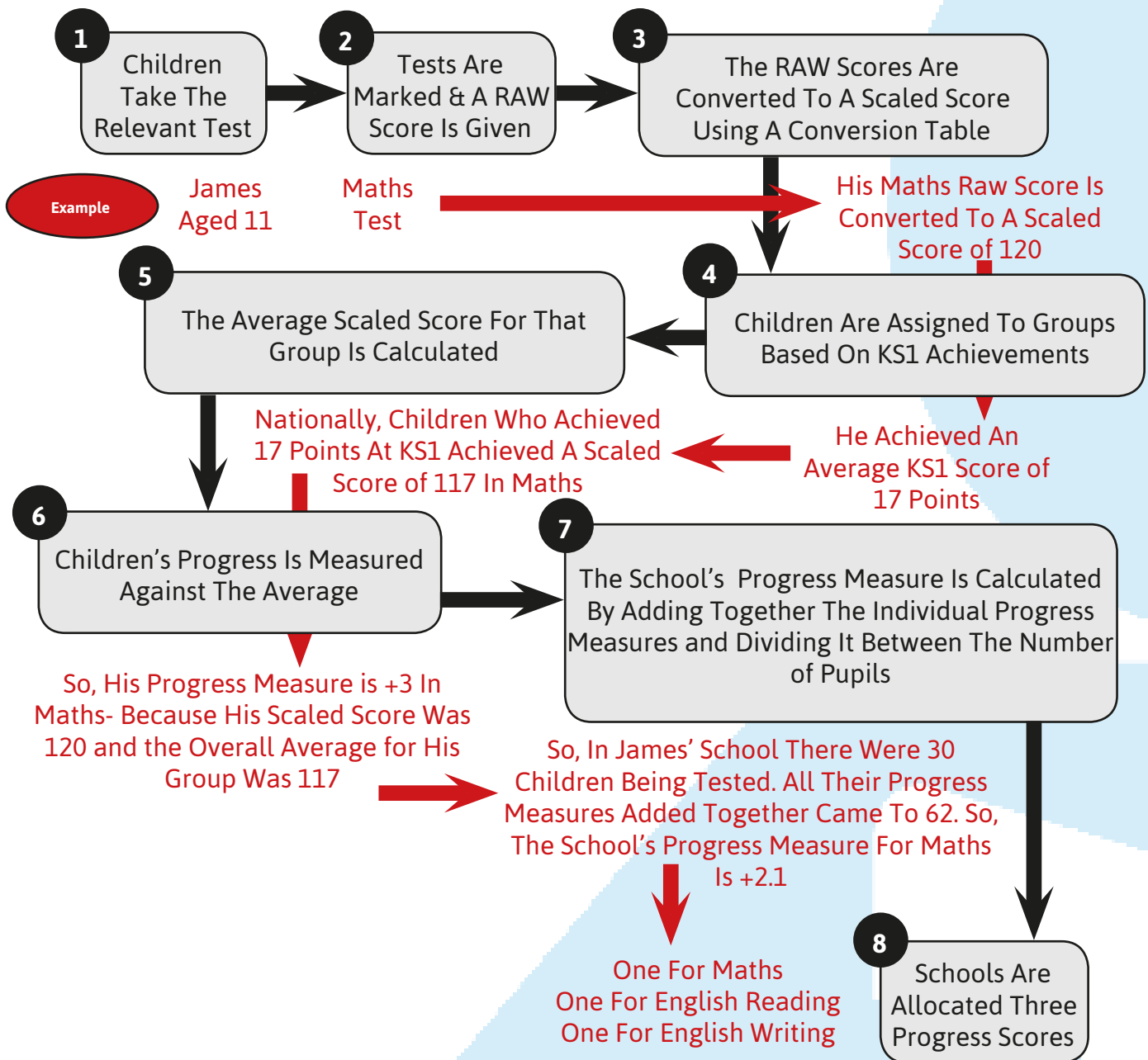
This is the first year in which these new tests will be undertaken, but also the way the outcomes are reported is also changing. In summary, the results will include three aspects : a scaled score, a raw score and confirmation of attainment against the national standard.

This is how these new measures will be assessed ...

The first Key Stage SAT's in England were introduced in 1998 ...

Measuring Progress

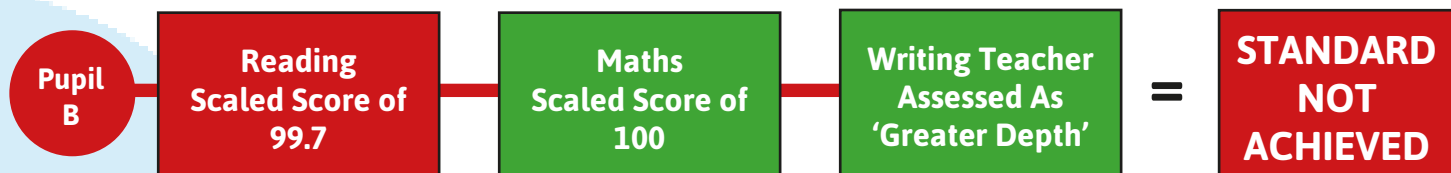
In the past, progress has been measured by using a two-levels of progress indicator. However, as levels are not being used any more, there will now be a revised measure for progress. This will be assessed as follows :



What is the National Standard ?

The range for the scaled scores will be from 80 to 130. For a pupil to have met the expected standard they must have achieved 100 or more in Reading and Maths, plus have achieved at least an expected standard in teacher-assessed writing. This chart gives some examples ...





Additionally in 2016 a small group of schools (80 in total) will pilot the new '**Multiplication Tests**'. These come into force for all schools in 2017.



What Do the Tests Actually Involve ?

English ...

Writing : There will be NO writing test for any schools in 2016. The writing will be assessed by the teacher through a range of regular classroom writing tasks (just as they are in KS1).

Reading Comprehension : The focus will be on fictional texts this year. Each child will have one hour to read the booklet and answer the questions at their own pace. There will be around 35 to 40 questions, each different (some short answers, some one word and some longer length).

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling : The focus will be on knowing and applying grammatical terminology, with all punctuation tested. For spelling, the patterns and methodology that form the basis of words will be tested - not a specific list of words. This aspect is tested through two tests - one for each. The grammar paper is for 45 minutes and the spelling one for 15 minutes.

Maths ...

There will be two formal test papers, each testing the application of maths. These papers will focus on mathematical reasoning.

Arithmetic Test : This will assess basic mathematical understanding, without any context. There will be 36 questions in 30 minutes.

So, How is the SAT's Week Organised ?

Schools are given an outline timetable which tells them on which day the tests are to be undertaken. Schools can determine the best time to do the tests on the designated day. There are however some rules :

1. All children must sit the tests at the same time
2. Test papers can only be opened one hour before the test starts
3. Displays that may help pupils should be covered over

Do Children Get Any Help ?

In principle, no. The tests are designed to assess what children know and can do independently.

However there are differing rules for each test which identify what support can be offered.

Reading Test : pupils must read the text and questions themselves, but may have some help to write down their answers - BUT only if this is their usual classroom practice.

Maths Test : Some pupils may have the paper (or parts of it) read to them. This is to ensure that their reading skills do not affect their mathematical assessment. The teacher can encourage but not guide a pupil to a particular answer.

Special Needs : A variety of variations and modifications are available to schools if a child has special needs. These include additional time, a reader, a braille version, use of a scribe etc. However, this must be normal practice for the child and the school must apply for permission to this before the tests begin.

How Can Parents Help ?

- attend meetings and parents evenings
- support homework or extra opportunities
- don't put your child under too much pressure
- ensure they are in school on time, having had a good breakfast and a good night's sleep.

The 2016 Test Timetable

Date	Test
Monday 9th May	Reading
Tuesday 10th May	Grammar Paper Spelling Paper
Wednesday 11th May	Arithmetic Paper Maths Paper 1
Thursday 12th May	Maths Paper 2