

Half of primary pupils meet new standard

9 minutes ago Education & Family



DGLIMAGES

The results of Sats tests taken in primary schools in England this spring show just over half - **53%** - of 11-year-olds met the new expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics.

Last year 80% met the required standard in reading, writing and maths - but that was under the old Levels system.

The old system of Levels for Sats was scrapped this year and now pupils need a score of 100 or above to be on track.

This year's tests were more demanding and were based on a new curriculum.

Department for Education statistics show:

- 66% of pupils met the standard in reading
- 70% in maths
- 72% in grammar, punctuation and spelling
- 74% in the teacher-assessed writing

The overall figure of 53% relates to the number of pupils who reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics.

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan says lower results should not be interpreted as a decline in performance by pupils.

Previously, attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 was measured in Levels - Level 4a being the expected standard for pupils in their final year of primary school.

However, in the new tests, the expected level is set at 100 but scores can range between 80 and 120 - this means that anything at 100 or over is, in effect, a pass and anything under is a fail.

The new Sats: How are they different?

On Monday, Mrs Morgan said: "They [the tests] simply cannot be compared directly.

"Neither schools nor parents should try to compare this year's results with previous years. The tests are new and are based on a new, more rigorous national curriculum - based on the best evidence from across the world."

Mrs Morgan said parents should "see the results as what they are - a reflection of how well children this year have performed against a new curriculum".

Julie McCulloch, from the Association of School and College Leaders, said: "It is essential to understand that the standard pupils are expected to achieve in these tests has been raised significantly from previous years.

"It is therefore meaningless to compare this year's headline results with those from previous years, and these statistics must be handled with extreme caution in terms of trying to reach any judgements."

Ms McCulloch said the Department for Education's introduction of the tests was "rushed and chaotic".

"The children tested this year have only been studying the new curriculum for two years when it is a programme designed to be studied over four years," she added.

Test problems

This year's tests were not without controversy - a copy of the spelling, punctuation and grammar (Spag) test was **published a day before it was due to be taken** by 10 and 11-year-olds by what the government described as a "rogue marker".

And the government was forced to **scrap a Sats spelling test** for half a million children aged six and seven after it emerged that it had been posted with practice materials three months early.

The National Association of Head Teachers has previously written to Mrs Morgan calling for the publication of this year's results to be cancelled.

They warned that there had been "serious mistakes" in how changes had been introduced and said results were too "unpredictable" to be used for school league tables.

The Sats results are published on the same day as some schools in England face disruption because of a **one-day strike by the National Union of Teachers** over school funding.

Share this story About sharing