

Local Area Agreement for Statutory Assessment Moderation for maintained schools, academies and free schools 2023-24

Local Authorities are asked to draw up an agreement with schools where moderation and monitoring arrangements deviate from statutory guidance. Southwark Local Authority moderation and monitoring processes are compliant with STA's moderation and monitoring models (please see *'KS1 and KS2 Assessment and Reporting Arrangements and KS2 teacher assessment guidance'*). We attend STA training and all moderators are approved by STA. We are consistently validated by STA at all key stages. We only deviate from statutory requirements for moderation in the following respects:

- We have a minimum of two moderators per school moderation visit;
- We require data to be submitted slightly earlier than STA deadlines so that we can fulfil our responsibilities to quality assure before final submission.

Paired moderator model

Southwark LA operates a model of a minimum of two moderators per school per visit based on the following rationale:

- Ensuring consistency in the interpretation of the "more flexible approach" to assessing writing in the revised "pupil can" statements;
- Ensuring consistency of the "most, many and some" qualifiers in the application of "pupil can" statements;
- Ensuring a professional dialogue and collaborative process between LA moderators and teachers and other school staff;
- Ensuring access to a balance of skills, expertise and experience from a pool of LA advisors, specialist consultants and trained school professionals;
- Ensuring a level of quality assurance;
- Ensuring efficient use of time for schools with larger cohorts and appropriate support for small schools who have fewer opportunities to moderate with others;
- Ensuring new moderators can be inducted and trained appropriately.

Submission dates

We are required to validate accuracy of all assessment data submitted to the DfE. In addition to the layers of quality assurance that you put into place in your schools, our data team check that datasets are free of errors, and our advisors and consultants operate a second quality assurance check based on moderation, trend and local knowledge of schools. Whilst these checks can continue after data is submitted to DfE, any changes made after that submission may affect what is published in school performance documents. In order to implement these checks we request that you submit your assessments by the following dates.

LA data submission dates

Statutory Assessment	Date and Time	Submitted to
EYFS Profile	Fri 28th June, 1pm	LA
Y1/Y2 Phonics	Fri 21st June, 1pm	LA
KS2 Teacher Assessment	Wed 26th June, 1pm	Primary Assessment Gateway

The criteria for selecting schools for a monitoring visit for Phonics Screening Check and KS2 SATs is as follows:

- Length of time since last visit
- Concerns/data anomalies e.g. high % of extra time applications
- DfE requests

These visits are unannounced.

The criteria for selecting schools for KS2 writing moderation visits are as follows:

- Date and outcome of last external moderation visit;
- Previous issues/data anomalies;
- OFSTED category/STA concern;
- Schools with a Y6 cohort for the first time;
- Requests to support school self-review process;
- LA information which could include the following: non-attendance at LA led moderation sessions*, new Headteacher/ SLT or teaching staff.

*The importance of attendance at these sessions is:

- ✓ To ensure that key messages are relayed from STA national training events;
- ✓ To ensure greater consistency in the interpretation of "pupil can" statements;
- ✓ To facilitate an accurate understanding of the standards expected at KS2;
- ✓ To provide useful professional development for experienced staff and those new to the phase through the assistance of consultants, advisors and school moderators;
- ✓ To provide opportunities for staff to see standards in other settings and benchmark their own;
- ✓ To identify where schools may need support and arrange for it to be provided.

*An e-mail will be sent out on **Friday 17th May 2024** informing schools if they have been selected for a moderation visit in accordance with STA moderation requirements.*

If you **agree** with these amendments to statutory guidance, you do not need to do anything further.

If you **do not agree** to the deviation from STA guidelines for external moderation outlined in this document, please fill out the box below and return it electronically to Nikki.tilson@southwark.gov.uk **before Friday 12th January.**

I **do not** agree to work within Southwark's Local Area Agreement for moderation for the following reason(s):

Signed (Headteacher): _____

School: _____

Date: _____

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Kind regards,

Nikki Tilson (Principal Adviser, Assessment)