

El Mayhew
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14th September 2026

Dear CEO/Head Teacher/Head of School

The Standards and Testing Agency have reported that in 2026/27 the primary school statutory assessments which will be taking place are the same as last academic year: Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) in the first six weeks of this term, KS2 tests in May, and then in June, EYFS Profile assessment, phonics screening checks, multiplication tables check and KS2 moderation of writing. KS1 tests continue to be optional – guidance suggests that they are administered during May.

The National Curriculum Assessment Portal (NCA Portal) replaced the Primary Assessment Gateway last year and will continue to be used for all primary school statutory assessment activities and downloads during 2026/27.

In order for the local authority to fulfil statutory duties, I am writing to confirm that we do require certain information from you, as detailed within this letter.

Statutory Assessment Written Agreement Between Academies and Their Selected Local Authority (LA)

Academies that converted before 1st September 2026 must choose which LA they wish to select for their monitoring and moderation processes in 2025/2026. Academies will be presumed to be working with their geographical LA and there is a requirement to inform the Standards and Testing Agency (via the National Curriculum Assessment (NCA) Portal) before the 8th January 2027, if a different local authority has been selected.

Academies must have a written agreement in place with their chosen LA, and for North Yorkshire Council (NYC) the written agreement is the Primary Assessment and Moderation Service Level Agreement (PAMSLA) for 2026/27. If you purchased this SLA in 2025/26, it is on a rolling contract and will have automatically renewed to continue from the 1st September for this academic year (unless you cancelled it).

Whilst the decision to select a local authority does not need to be reported to the STA until the 8th January 2027, the PAMSLA includes access to courses running this term that your staff may wish to access (at no additional cost), so if you do wish to select NYC, we would encourage you purchase it as soon as possible in order that you are able to access the full offer (please see attached flyer for details of the PAMSLA and course information).

If your school, or a school within your trust, became an academy on or after the 1st September 2026 they will be included within North Yorkshire's arrangements for moderation and monitoring for 2026/27 and will be unable to select an alternate local authority until the 2027/28 academic year. There will be no requirement for a written agreement through the service level agreement; the PAMSLA is available to purchase if you choose to.

Planning for 2025/26 Statutory Assessment

In order that the LA can plan for monitoring and moderation of statutory assessment in 2026/27, we will require every academy selecting NYC as their chosen authority to **return the information requested on the attached excel document by Friday 25th September 2026**. This will ensure that we are able to plan for and fully support every school and academy with the required end of key stage statutory assessments, and in order to meet our statutory obligations. Instructions for the completion of the excel spreadsheet are included as appendix 1 within this letter.

Moderator Recruitment

We have always had excellent engagement from schools and academies with regard to the recruitment of high quality KS2 school-based moderators, who support the LA to fulfil the statutory obligations for external moderation. Each year, moderators tell us that they find the CPD valuable to support their schools, as well as the process being a personal positive leadership experience. I am always so grateful for the ongoing professional generosity of schools, academies and school leaders across North Yorkshire, which means that across the local authority, we have many teachers who have recent experience of supporting statutory KS2 writing moderation. Detail regarding the expectations of this role, to support you to decide if you wish to submit an expression of interest for this academic year, can be found in appendix 2.

Further Information

In order to support school leaders to plan for statutory assessment during 2026/27, further information that covers many of the queries asked, are included in Appendix 3.

Local Agreement

The 2026/27 North Yorkshire Local Agreement draft proposal is included within this letter as appendix 4. I would be grateful if you could read it and let me know if you have any feedback by **Friday 25th September 2026**. The final agreement will be sent out to schools later in the autumn term, and in line with statutory guidance, the local authority will need each individual school and academy to 'sign up' to the final agreement once it has been shared. This will be done through a return email - please look out for the final version during October/November 2026. This local agreement is different to the written agreement (which is the PAMSLA) and the LA does require a return from all schools and academies once the final version has been shared.

Writing Moderation Service for Year 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 teachers

The LA is continuing to support writing beyond Year 6 moderation, through the LA's Year 1 to 5 writing moderation service. Details of this offer can be found on the attached flyer. Due to the limited numbers, if you cannot access the service because the places have been filled up, please email Schoolimprovementservice@northyorks.gov.uk to request a place on the waiting list.

If you have any questions regarding any aspects of primary assessment and moderation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email.

Thank you for your continued support with this statutory requirement.
Yours sincerely



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KS2 moderation manager
NYC School Improvement Service
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APPENDICES 1 and 4: Actions and response required by Friday 26th September 2025
APPENDICES 2, 3 and 5: For information only

APPENDIX 1

Please could you complete and return the attached excel spreadsheet by Friday 25th September 2026 to statutoryassessment@northyorks.gov.uk

The notes below are intended to provide the necessary context.

- 1) Dates
- 2) New head teachers, teachers in Y1 and Y6
- 3) Number of pupils and classes and teacher names/contact details
- 4) Moderation preference
- 5) KS2 writing moderator recruitment

1) Dates (column C on the spreadsheet):

For 2026/27 the majority of external LA KS2 writing moderation in North Yorkshire will take place between the 17th and 23rd June 2027, following a hybrid model of remote and face-to-face at central locations. It is likely that the 17th and 18th will be central location moderation and 21st, 22nd and 23rd will be remote moderation.

Please **identify any dates between 17th and 23rd June 2027 that your Y6 teacher could not moderate on**, in order that clashes with moderation can be avoided at the planning stage. The LA will inform schools and academies by email if they will be receiving external moderation in line with the Standards and Testing Agency guidelines (which is anticipated to be on the 14th May 2027). That email will provide detail of the moderation processes, including the date for the school/academy's moderation meeting. During May/June 2026 quite a lot of schools and academies requested that the planned date be changed, after they had received that email, due to clashes in school. I am sure that you can appreciate that because there are a high number of moderation meetings to arrange within our LA, changing dates after they have been planned, is a logistical challenge for me. I would be extremely grateful if you could identify now, in your school diary/calendar, the KS2 writing moderation dates for North Yorkshire LA. Then if something is added to the diary throughout the year that would impact on moderation (if your school were to be selected), you can let me know, so that I can avoid that date during the planning stage. Thank you!

1) New head teachers, teachers in Y1 and Y6 information (columns D – H on spreadsheet):

The LA is obliged to collect information about staffing in order to support planning. Please complete the attached excel spreadsheet to let me know if you are a new head or if any teacher in year 1 or year 6 is an Early Career Teacher or new to year group.

2) Number of pupils and classes and teacher names/contact details (columns I - O on spreadsheet):

For year 1 and year 6, please complete the current number of pupils, number of classes and the names of the class teachers. For year 6, please could you also include a direct teacher school email address in order that we have that information to support remote moderation processes if your academy is selected for KS2 writing moderation in June 2027.

3) Moderation preference (column P on spreadsheet)

Please indicate your academy's preference for remote moderation or central location moderation, or if there is no preference and the LA will endeavour to meet that preference – Remote/Central/Either.

4) KS2 Moderator recruitment (columns Q - S on spreadsheet):

Please see appendix 2 for further information about this role.

APPENDIX 2

KS2 Moderator recruitment

Moderators must be qualified teachers with recent and relevant experience of assessment and internal or external moderation in KS2 writing.

'Approval to moderate' for 2026/27 will be granted by the STA/DfE on successful completion of a standardisation exercise.

KS2 moderators for 2026/27 **MUST** be able to commit to the following:-

- Moderator training and the writing standardisation exercise on Wednesday 13th January 2027 – all day *(there will be no charge to attend this training; schools and academies will need to cover supply costs)*.
- If approval to moderate is not granted during the first round, and the LA does not have sufficient number of moderators, there will be an opportunity to undertake a further standardisation exercise on 18th February 2027.
- Remote moderator training session on Wednesday 19th May 2027 (afternoon) *(there will be no charge to attend this training; schools and academies will need to cover supply costs)*.
- Depending upon numbers, most moderators will be required for between 2 and 4 full days during the identified moderation dates, although there may be a need and opportunity for some flexibility on the number of days *(a flat rate of £105 for each half day session will be provided to the school or academy to cover time spent supporting moderation meetings, including travel if required)*.
- Some moderators may also be asked to provide additional time for visits outside of the moderation dates identified or to support re-moderation, if they have capacity *(a flat rate of £105 for each half day session will be provided to the school or academy to cover time spent supporting moderation meetings, including travel if required)*.

Once approval to moderate has been granted, we will also ask moderators if they would like to participate in and support one or more of the remote KS2 LA led group moderation sessions which will take place on the 9th/10th/11th March 2027 (see attached flyer). Once moderators have been approved, I will liaise with them directly to book them on the session at no cost to your academy – **please do not book them on through NYES** *(there will be no charge to attend this training; schools and academies will need to cover supply costs)*.

Year 6 statutory assessment training events will take place remotely during the autumn and spring terms - these sessions are not mandatory for moderators (although many do attend in order to be fully up to date with key messages). These courses can be booked via North Yorkshire Education Services (www.nyeducationalservices.co.uk). Please note that there is a charge for attendance (see attached flyer).

In the past we have always been fortunate that a high number of head teachers submit expressions of interest for teachers to support the moderation process in North Yorkshire and unfortunately, we are not always able to use everyone. Following the recruitment process, I will let teachers/head teachers know at the beginning of March 2027 if they will be a part of the North Yorkshire external moderation team for 2026/27.

APPENDIX 3

FURTHER INFORMATION

Statutory Assessment courses – autumn 2026/spring 2027

2026-27 Statutory Assessment Courses can be found on the attached flyer – all can be accessed through NYES - www.nyeducationsservices.co.uk

The LA will be running remote phonics, year 6, year 6 moderation, multiplication tables check and test readiness courses across the autumn and spring terms. As part of the PAMSLA, there is no additional charge to schools and academies for attendance. The moderation sessions are limited in number and 'free' places need to be booked by the 7th December 2026. We ask for all bookings to be complete for the moderation sessions by 18th February 2027 to allow for moderator allocation, breakout room planning and communication with delegates. For academies not in the PAMSLA the courses will be charged as detailed on the attached flyer.

EYFS Profile

The EYFS Profile remains statutory, and the DfE has asked Local Authorities to deliver termly assessment training to support the process. These sessions are free for all EYFS teachers in maintained schools and academies and will be held face-to-face in five locations across the county (see Appendix 5 for booking information). Each session will provide opportunities for professional dialogue around assessment, including activities and discussions of individual case studies with colleagues.

Please contact Elaine.Broadbent@northyorks.gov.uk (Early Years Adviser) if you have any queries about EYFS assessment.

Working below the standard of the KS2 tests

For any pupils that will be working below the standard of the tests in May 2027, they can be registered on the NCA Portal as 'B'. When you complete pupil registration, if you are not sure if a pupil will take the tests or be working below, then you can register them and then if, in May, they are working below, you can submit 'B' on the test attendance register. For any pupil who is recorded as 'B' on the test attendance register, school leaders must submit a teacher assessment judgement on the NCA Portal during June 2027. That judgement will be one of the Pre-Key Stage Standards, or the Engagement Model.

The Engagement Model

The engagement model is the statutory teacher assessment tool for pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum and not engaged in subject-specific study. It should be used to assess pupils' learning regularly throughout the year, enabling these pupils' achievements and progress to be measured over time, and **schools and academies must report which pupils are assessed using the engagement model at the end of KS2**. This is so the DfE is aware of how many pupils are not engaged in subject-specific study and where they are being educated.

Privacy Notices

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA), schools and academies are responsible for ensuring that the collation, retention, storage and security of all personal information they produce, and hold meets the provisions of the Act. This includes:

- personal information appearing in a pupil's educational record
 - Any other information they hold which identifies individuals, including pupils, staff and parents.
- Schools and academies must consider the implications of the DPA, under which they are required to register as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office. Many schools consult their legal advisors for guidance on their responsibilities under the DPA and advice on developing their data policies. The DfE provides suggested text at [Data protection: privacy notice model documents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-privacy-notice-model)

Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) – June 2027

Schools and academies will have a 2-week window to administer the Year 4 multiplication tables check from the 7th June 2027, with flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils, small groups or the whole class at the same time. The third week (21st – 25th June 2027) can be used for any absent pupils or technical difficulties. The LA is running MTC training (see attached flyer).

Phonics Screening Check – June 2027

All pupils in Year 1, and those in Year 2 who did not meet the threshold in June 2026, should access the phonics screening check, which will take place during the week beginning 14th June 2027. If any pupil is absent during this week, they can take the check the following week. The LA has a statutory duty to monitor at least 10% of schools and academies during the check period. The LA is running phonics screening check training (see attached flyer).

Schools with no pupils working at the standard of the phonics screening check must decline PSC materials through the NCA Portal between the 12th October and 13th November 2026.

Moderation in North Yorkshire

The 2025/26 teacher assessment guidance states that the moderator does not have to meet with the teacher in person, and if this is the process that is followed, the moderator must be able to check the pupils' work, hold a professional discussion with the teacher, expand the sample if needed and ensure that forms are signed. The NYC hybrid model for statutory moderation ensures this consistency, whether undertaken remotely or face-to-face at a central location. The guidance also states, 'LAs not using a face-to-face model should be careful not to impose additional burdens on schools and must comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when pupils' work is shared.' Considering teacher workload with regard to remote moderation, the LA will provide academies with the pupil sample two working days in advance of the moderation meeting to allow time to upload evidence. Feedback from previous years suggests that this provides sufficient time for teachers to prepare.

If an academy would prefer to access face to face moderation through central location moderation, the pupil sample will be shared the day before the moderation meeting, and some additional pupils will be selected in case the sample needs to be expanded. This will allow teachers time to gather the required evidence to bring to the central location moderation session.

There is no need for remote moderation or central location to be referenced in the local agreement as it falls within the statutory guidance.

APPENDIX 4

This is a draft proposal for consultation with all head teachers regarding statutory moderation processes in 2026/27.

North Yorkshire Local Agreement

Local agreements should be drawn up in consultation with, and with the agreement of, all stakeholders and revised annually. A local agreement should be signed by both the local authority and school/academy. Academies that do not want to enter into a local agreement can instead ask the local authority to revert to the statutory moderation arrangements. All academies with a local agreement should have a written copy of this agreement from the local authority.

Statutory guidance from STA	NYC Statutory Assessment Local Agreement 2027
The STA does not require LAs to ask schools and academies for pupil data in advance of an external moderation. During the moderation, there is an expectation that schools and academies provide details of pupils within the cohort, categorised by the standard awarded. (KS2 Teacher Assessment Guidance)	To support the moderation processes taking place remotely or via central location, the Primary Assessment and Moderation Lead will collect pupil data for KS2 writing in advance of an external moderation visit See information below.
Deadline to submit KS2 TA data on the National Curriculum Assessment Portal – <i>which is expected to be Tuesday 29th June 2027</i> (KS2 Assessment and Reporting Arrangements)	To support the local authority's data checking processes, the Primary Assessment and Moderation Lead asks for schools and academies to submit teacher assessment data by 9:00am on Friday 25 th June 2027, or sooner if the school or academy has accessed an external moderation before that date. See information below.
NYC Primary Assessment and Moderation Lead	Final version to be signed by Lindsay Miller
Date	
Head teacher	Final version to be signed by HT
School or academy	
Date	

NYC has a statutory duty under the Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stage 2 Assessment Arrangements) (England) Order 2004 to carry out moderation of key stage 2 writing. In order to carry out this duty as effectively as possible, and with consideration for teacher workload, we would like to give schools and academies the opportunity to have some advance notice of the chosen moderation sample.

This would require schools and academies to share pupils' teacher assessment data with us in advance of a moderation meeting so the LA can select the random sample of pupils and confirm that sample back to the school or academy before your moderation session.

What is the LA asking schools and academies to share in advance?

An excel spreadsheet containing teacher assessment judgements in writing (GDS, EXS, WTS, pre key stage or engagement model) for each pupil in the year 6 cohort, for schools or academies selected for KS2 writing moderation in June 2027.

Why is the LA asking schools and academies for this information and is it mandatory?

The LA wants to make the moderation process as effective as possible for teachers, and the advance notice will allow teachers time to prepare writing moderation files electronically for the children

selected in the sample only, or to gather the books required for the face-to-face central location moderation.

This is not mandatory, and the school or academy can choose not to share anything in advance. If a school or academy chooses not to share data in advance, the LA will not be able to identify the sample selection in advance. This would mean:

- for remote moderation the teacher would need to upload writing samples at the start of the moderation session when the moderator has made the selection. Or the teacher will need to prepare electronic writing moderation files for all pupils in year 6 in advance of the moderation session starting.
- for face-to-face moderation the teacher would need to bring evidence for every pupil in the cohort to the central location moderation session where the moderator would make the selection.

How are the LA asking schools and academies to share this?

The LA is asking school leaders to share this by completing teacher assessment judgements for writing on a pre-prepared spreadsheet, which will be shared through a secure file transfer system.

Why is the LA not using pseudonymised IDs?

The LA is unable to use pseudonymised data for this stage of the process because the LA has a duty to carry out the moderation as robustly as possible and needs to be able to evidence that the same pupil's data and evidence is scrutinised at each stage of moderation and data checking process.

What assurances is the LA able to provide schools and academies with, regarding this processing of personal data?

The LA is asking schools and academies to share the minimum pupil level data that is necessary for the LA to select the moderation sample and to make the school or academy aware of the chosen sample in advance.

The data will only be used by the LA for the purposes set out above and it will be sent securely.

It is the same data that schools would be required to share with the LA if the sample were to be chosen in person on the day of the moderation.

Why is the LA asking for final teacher assessment judgements before the STA deadline of the 29th June 2027?

There are over 300 schools and academies in North Yorkshire submitting data for primary school aged pupils and the LA prides itself on a robust and thorough data checking exercise. For schools and academies that have been moderated, the LA assessment team check the submission of every pupil and undertake a sense check for other schools and academies. This process supports school leaders, through the identification of anomalies and inaccurate submissions which can then be amended before the final submission date.

If a school is able to submit KS2 writing teacher assessment data on to the NCA Portal as soon as possible after the 7th June 2027, and as soon as possible after external moderation takes place (if selected in 2027), this supports an efficient data checking process. This local agreement requests for any teacher assessment data to be submitted to the NCA Portal BEFORE 9:00am on Friday 25th June 2027.

APPENDIX 5

EYFS Profile Assessment Support Meetings

Please book on NYES.

Code	Name	Date	Venue
SI-1026-T017	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	14/10/2026	The Street, Scarborough
SI-1026-T018	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	15/10/2026	The Crown Hotel, Harrogate
SI-1026-T019	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	19/10/2026	Brayton Community Centre, Selby
SI-1026-T020	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	21/10/2026	The Skipton Hotel
SI-1026-T021	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	22/10/2026	The Golden Lion, Northallerton
SI-0127-T012	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	20/01/2027	The Street, Scarborough
SI-0127-T013	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	21/01/2027	Crowne Plaza, Harrogate
SI-0127-T014	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	25/01/2027	Brayton Community Centre, Selby
SI-0127-T015	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	26/01/2027	The Skipton Hotel (Formally Rendezvous)
SI-0227-T007	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	01/02/2027	The Golden Lion, Northallerton
SI-0227-T009	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	18/05/2027	The Street, Scarborough
SI-0527-T004	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	19/05/2027	The Crown Hotel, Harrogate
SI-0527-T005	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	24/05/2027	Brayton Community Centre, Selby
SI-0527-T006	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	25/05/2027	The Skipton Hotel (Formally Rendezvous)
SI-0527-T007	EYFS Assessment Support Meeting	26/05/2027	The Golden Lion, Northallerton