

Statutory moderation of KS1 and KS2 teacher assessment in 2016

North Yorkshire Local Authority

When a school is notified that it is to receive an LA external moderation visit, the head teacher and Year 2 or Year 6 class teacher/s should access the latest guidance regarding KS1 or KS2 moderation on the www.gov.uk website and read the moderation information pack provided by the LA.

Why LA external moderation takes place

- LA external moderation is statutory and gives confidence that teacher assessment judgements are accurate and consistent with national standards.
- It confirms whether a school's KS1 reading, writing and mathematics teacher assessment and/or KS2 writing teacher assessment is consistent with national standards.
- KS1 (reading, writing and mathematics) and KS2 (writing) teacher assessment must be robust and credible as it forms part of schools' published accountability data.

When LA external moderation will take place

- External KS1 and KS2 moderation visits will take place in North Yorkshire during June 2016 – KS1 between the 13th and 28th June and KS2 between the 8th and 20th June.
- If selected for a KS1 and/or KS2 external moderation visit, schools will receive notification by email as soon as possible after the 20th May 2016.
- Schools will be informed of the name of the moderator/s and the date of the moderation visit in this email. **If schools have any dates in June on which moderation visits could not take place** please email the moderation manager as soon as possible - lindsay.miller@northyorks.gov.uk .
- The LA must moderate a minimum of 25% of schools for each key stage.

The moderation process

- LA external moderation is a supportive process, where the moderator will review the work of a sample of pupils from the cohort, and will hold a professional discussion with teachers to confirm that teacher assessment standards are being applied appropriately.
- All KS1 and KS2 moderators in North Yorkshire have recent experience of teaching and/or moderating the appropriate key stage. They have been involved in a rigorous LA recruitment process and CPD to ensure that they are up to date, understand the process of moderation and are aware of current statutory guidance from STA.
- Schools must provide the moderator with a list of all pupils within the cohort and the teacher assessment judgements (reading, writing and mathematics for KS1 and writing for KS2) first thing on the morning of the visit.
- The moderator will arrive at school by 8:30am at the latest to select the moderation sample and will spend 20 - 30 minutes in professional discussion with the class teacher/s in order that they are provided with any relevant contextual information about the evidence and the pupils selected.
- The moderator will then work alone, in a quiet space, to find the evidence of all the 'pupil can' statements from the interim teacher assessment frameworks and will identify any aspects where they will need to discuss evidence with the class teacher/s.
- If the moderator does not easily find evidence for one or more of the bullet points within the standard awarded, they will have a focused professional dialogue with the class teacher, which will provide opportunity for the teacher to talk through their judgements and provide the necessary evidence to support their teacher assessment.
- As a result of the moderation process, LAs may require schools to amend teacher judgements for individual pupils if it is determined that judgements are not in line with national standards.
- It may be that there are pupils who have not met a small number of the 'pupil can' statements, or the LA does not consider the evidence presented to be sufficient, such that the pupils have not been awarded a particular standard. If the school believes these pupils will acquire the relevant knowledge or skills after the moderation visit, but before the deadline for TA submission, the LA can agree to re-moderate the pupils. Procedure will then be agreed on an individual basis.

The moderation sample

- To demonstrate that a pupil has met one of the standards within the interim teacher assessment frameworks, the LA external moderator must scrutinise the evidence presented and validate each judgement within the sample.
- The exact number of pupils discussed during the external moderation visit will vary, depending upon the school's size and circumstances. The final sample selection must rest with the LA external moderator.

- For KS1 the moderator must select a minimum sample of 10% across the cohort or in the case of a single class, a minimum of three pupils. If the cohort is big enough, different pupils must be selected for each subject, reading, writing and mathematics. The sample must cover the full range of attainment within the cohort, but will not include pupils working within the pre-key stage 2 standards or within P scales.
- For KS2 the moderator must select a minimum sample of 15% across the cohort or in the case of a single class, a minimum of five pupils. The sample must cover the full range of attainment within the cohort, but will not include pupils working within the pre-key stage 2 standards or within P scales.
- If there is insufficient evidence to support teacher judgements, the moderator will request to see other examples and potentially expand the sample.

Written record of the visit

- The moderator will provide the head teacher with a handwritten record of visit before they leave the school. This record of visit will be written following any professional discussion that may take place with the class teacher and the moderator will need time on their own to do this. The record of visit will include the pre-validated data set, the agreed validated judgements, details about any pupils for whom the LA agrees to consider further evidence and re-moderate, any decisions that the school intends to appeal and any concerns that require further action by the school or the LA.
- Before leaving the school, the LA external moderator must ensure that the record of visit has been signed by the head teacher (or delegate) and by the moderator.
- The school will keep the original copy of the record of visit and the moderator will take a photocopy which will be scanned and stored electronically by the LA.

Evidence

- The evidence should be produced from everyday teaching in Year 2 or 6, in order that the external moderator gets a strong sense of pupils' attainment and to validate the accuracy of teacher assessment judgements.
- There is no requirement or need to put together a separate portfolio of evidence for each child solely for the purpose of moderation. Moderators will ask to see pupil books.
- The evidence must show that the pupil demonstrates attainment of all the 'pupil can' statements within the standard that they have been awarded.
- The teacher must be confident that the pupil meets the 'pupil can' statements in the preceding standards but there is no requirement to produce specific evidence for them. It is likely that the pupil's work for the preceding standard they have been awarded will also evidence the 'pupil can' statements of the preceding standard(s).
- The LA external moderator must be satisfied that the work was completed independently.
- Specific advice on independent work can be found in the following documents:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teacher-assessment-moderation-requirements-for-key-stage-1> and
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teacher-assessment-moderation-requirements-for-key-stage-2>.
- Evidence will consist of examples of pupil work and teacher knowledge of their pupils and for KS1 moderation visits it will also consist of the statutory KS1 tests.
- Where the moderator judges that there is insufficient evidence for the standard awarded, they must detail, within the record of visit, the revised judgement and the reason for it.
- On very rare occasions, if the moderator is unable to validate judgements due to a systematic lack of evidence, they would contact the moderation manager who would refer the school to the STA maladministration team.

Submission of accurate judgements

- The head teacher (or delegate) is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the teacher assessment judgements in their school.
- The head teacher must ensure that all submitted teacher assessment data is accurate and submitted by 30th June 2016. If a school cannot meet this deadline they must have discussed this with their LA and/or STA. Failure to do so could result in the matter being reported to the STA maladministration team.
- The school must not re-submit teacher assessment data after 30th June 2016 without authorisation from STA or the LA.
- The LA has a statutory duty to analyse submitted teacher assessment data to check that it matches external moderation discussions.

Appeals Process

- If the school does not accept these recommendations, the moderator should inform the LA moderation manager. The LA manager will take appropriate action to resolve such issues. This may lead to an additional moderation visit in line with North Yorkshire LA's Appeals Process.