



## **SATS Information Sheet**

### **What are they and when do they take place?**

SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) measure children's educational achievement in Years 2 and 6, with the ultimate aim of holding schools to account for the attainment of their pupils and the progress they make. According to the government, SATs are not about passing or failing, but instead show the level your child is working to.

In England, children sit SATs twice; at Key Stage 1 and at Key Stage 2. Key Stage 1 SATs take place in May of Year 2 (when children are age 7) and test their ability in Maths and English (reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar). The tests are informal, which means they aren't timed and take place in a normal classroom situation. Key Stage 1 SATs are non-statutory, meaning each school will decide whether to administer them or not. In Years 3, 4 and 5 some schools test end-of-year progress by using tests (known as optional SATs). The results help teachers to assess children's progress and are used to help children get used to working in exam conditions. Key Stage 2, SATs take place in May of Year 6 (when children are age 11) and are more formal tests than their Key Stage 1 counterparts. This means they will be administered under timed exam conditions. The tests are in English (reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar) and Maths. Each paper is 45 minutes long.

### **What do the results mean and how are they used?**

Scores for SATs are given on a scale of 80 to 120; with a score of 100 or above meaning a pupil is meeting the expected governmental standard. Key Stage 1 SATs are marked by teachers within the school whereas Key Stage 2 SATs are sent away to be marked externally. For the Key Stage 1 SATs, parents usually won't get their child's actual SATs score unless you ask for them, but you will be told whether your child is working at the expected standard as part of their end of year report. For Key Stage 2 SATs, parents get their child's scaled score and are told whether or not they reached the expected level. In addition, secondary schools are told their incoming pupils' scaled scores. Many secondary schools use these to help with setting and streaming their new cohort of Year 7 pupils. However, secondary schools are mindful that SATs only measure ability in English and Maths and consequently will carry out their own tests for more accurate streaming later during Year 7.

### **How to help your child prepare for KS2 SATs**

When your child is in Year 6, they will be doing a lot of preparation for the SATs. Below are some tips on how you can support your child in this preparation.



1. Work out a timetable that suits your child. Some children prefer short chunked sessions after school, where others prefer to do a longer session on a weekend. Look to your child's teacher for guidance on what they need to be focusing on and how long you should spend doing this.
2. Use a variety of different resources for preparation; use past papers, revision guides, games, practice worksheets. Incorporate some practical experience as well, such as adding up the shopping or measuring different amounts of ingredients when cooking. Make revision fun; such as songs for times tables.
3. Support your child with mental maths as use of calculators is not allowed in Maths SATs. Help your child to be secure in calculation of times tables and multiplication. Use different methods to help them to consolidate this and make this learning fun for them.
4. Track your child's progress; let them mark their own work using colourful pens and visually track their progress. This will help them to understand where they are going wrong.
5. Practice working under exam conditions; use past papers under timed conditions so that your child becomes used to working at speed and is able to complete the paper within the time given. Discuss how long to spend on different types of questions and tell them not to spend too long on a question if they don't know the answer, they can come back to it.
6. Ensure your child knows how to work independently but is also confident to ask for help when needed.
7. Make sure that your child has time away from practicing for the SATs. They need down time and this is just as important as practicing for the SATs. Aim to have 1 day a week free from school work and encourage sports/hobbies.

Free SAT papers are available to download from:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/subject/worksheets/sats/all>

<https://www.sats-papers.co.uk>

Adapted from:

<https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/curricula-and-exams/sats-standard-assessment-tests>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-sats>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/practical-tips-for-sats-preparation>