NFER resources

Trusted resources to support teaching and learning

Trusted by 1000s of schools.

Standardised with over 60,000 pupils.

Informed by 75 years of assessment research.
Discover reliable assessments

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) provides reliable and robust assessments for years 1-6. Our popular materials have been developed in collaboration with teachers to provide valuable data to help your school monitor and support pupil progress. NFER’s age-appropriate materials and free online analysis tool will enable you to:

- benchmark pupil results
- identify learning gaps to inform teaching
- monitor and evidence pupil progress
- generate performance reports.
To support consistent and reliable progress monitoring in your school, reading and mathematics assessments are available across years 1-6. Additionally, grammar and punctuation, and spelling materials are also available for years 3-6.

**Autumn assessments for years 2–6**
Autumn tests provide a base from which to monitor continued progress and identify curriculum areas which may require focus.

**Spring assessments for years 1–6**
Spring term assessments help monitor progress throughout the year and can be used formatively to identify strengths and weaknesses and inform teaching. All spring assessments include diagnostic commentaries.

**Summer assessments for year 1 and years 3-5**
Summer term assessments summarise attainment and progress at the end of the year and can be used as a point from which to monitor progress across consecutive years. All summer reading and mathematics assessments provide a reliable age-related expectations measure.
Year 1
Year 1 spring and summer term mathematic assessments consist of two tiered papers, each containing a mixture of reasoning and arithmetic items. Paper 1 provides additional support for calculations, while paper 2 requires pupils to work more independently with some abstract methods.

Year 2
Year 2 autumn and spring mathematic assessments consist of one arithmetic paper and one reasoning paper, in line with the format of the national curriculum tests.

Paper 1 includes a greater level of pictorial support than paper 2, including number lines to support calculations.

Colourful images increase appeal for children.
Year 1
Year 1 spring and summer term reading assessments consist of two papers, with the second, more challenging paper, for pupils who can work more independently.

Year 2
Year 2 reading texts are presented in the same booklet as the questions, with the exception of the year 2 spring assessment, which includes a separate reader booklet, to mirror the format of the end of key stage 1 national curriculum assessments.

Texts chosen to be engaging and appropriate to the age group.

Questions cover both retrieval and simple inference skills in the style of the key stage 1 national curriculum tests.
Key stage 2 Mathematics

Each maths assessment across years 3-6 consists of one arithmetic and two reasoning booklets, in line with the key stage 2 national curriculum tests.

NFER’s key stage 2 assessments include child-friendly materials, designed to be engaging for pupils. All assessment materials have been developed by NFER’s in-house assessment experts in collaboration with teachers.

Layout and format reflect national curriculum tests to build familiarity and confidence.

Tests contain a variety of question and answer styles, including written responses, circling, ticking and matching.

I know that with NFER Tests the information we give to Ofsted is robust.

Headteacher at Lander Road Primary School
Key stage 2 Reading

Each reading assessment across years 3-6 includes a reading answer booklet and a separate reading prompt materials booklet, which contains three un-themed texts, in line with the key stage 2 national curriculum tests.

These age-appropriate reading materials provide a reliable way to assess reading attainment during the academic year, and a point from which to measure progress year-on-year.

Reflects text types seen in the end of key stage 2 national curriculum tests.

Includes accessible inference questions, reflecting the emphasis seen in the key stage 2 reading curriculum.

Questions appear in a variety of formats to maintain engagement and to reduce dependency on the skill of writing.

NFER sample materials
For us, the tests are a diagnostic tool but it is a bonus that they help familiarise children with the national curriculum tests.

Headteacher at Pocklington Junior School
Supporting teachers

Teacher guides

Our teacher guides provide comprehensive guidance for administering and marking the assessments.

Given the young age of the children and the fact this may be their first formal assessment, key stage 1 teacher guides include a greater level of support.

The year 2 teacher guides also include valuable teacher support, but this guidance is less extensive than it is in year 1 as pupils are expected to work more independently.

Teacher guides include a teacher script providing scaffolding to support pupils.

Pictures in the teacher guides match those in the pupil booklets to help support children in navigating the assessment.
Trusted by 1000s of schools

Diagnostic guidance

To help you maximise the impact of classroom assessment, many of our teacher guides also include diagnostic commentaries, enabling you to:

• compare your pupils’ performance on a question level against the performance of pupils in our standardisation sample

• identify and overcome common errors and misconceptions

• gain valuable next-steps guidance to inform further teaching.

“NFER Tests highlighted strengths and weaknesses which we used for lesson planning.

Headteacher at Allendale Primary School

Diagnostic commentaries are provided alongside mark schemes.

The percentage of pupils in the large-scale standardisation sample who answered the question correctly is shown.

Suggestions on how to address misconceptions are provided alongside implications for teaching.
NFER Tests Analysis Tool

This time-saving tool allows you to record all your NFER Tests data in a secure online location for quick, yet powerful analysis. Simply enter your pupils’ data and the tool will automatically convert raw scores into standardised and age-standardised scores. Performance data is provided through a series of reports, making progress monitoring and gap analysis simple.

**Attainment Comparison report:** makes a direct comparison between pupils’ scores on two different assessments.

**Individual Progress report:** shows pupils’ standardised scores and whether they have met the age-related expectations on the summer reading and mathematics tests.

**Question Level Analysis report:** gives a more granular breakdown of results by question instead of by test.

**Programme of Study report:** shows your class average against areas of curriculum focus.

Triangles indicate whether pupils have made more or less progress than expected.

Diamonds indicate the progress an individual pupil is making over time.
We believe that quality writing stems from the use of quality texts.

**Bite into Writing**

Bite into Writing is a writing resource for year 6 teachers, designed to help you teach and assess key stage 2 writing with confidence.

NFER has worked closely with experienced authors and teachers to create this exciting new resource that draws on quality texts. With an extensive range of reading and writing activities, plus expert guidance on teacher assessment, it will save you time and inspire your pupils.

**Time-saving**
Up to a term's worth of material for reading and writing as well as integrated cross-curricular activities.

**Flexible**
A structured yet non-prescriptive approach that can be used in a range of ways to meet your teaching priorities.

**Inspiring and engaging**
Based on quality texts, with a choice of exciting activities to promote pupil independence.

**Balanced**
A focus on writing for different purposes and audiences using a range of text types.

**Empowering**
Expert guidance on the teacher assessment of writing.
My pupils fell in love with the characters from the well-chosen stories. Using these materials has deepened my learning, both as a teacher and a consultant.

Education Consultant and LA Lead Moderator
Free resources

To help you feel confident in your assessment knowledge and practice, we have created the NFER Assessment Hub.

This free hub features everything from short-read articles and practical guides, to webinars and FAQs, all written by our team of assessment experts.

Have a question about assessment? Put your questions to our assessment experts on the NFER Assessment Hub.

Choose from a variety of topics to explore our Assessment Hub.

NFER’s in-house experts are ready to answer your assessment queries.

Receive the latest updates with our Direct for Schools newsletter.
All NFER materials are developed by an in-house team of assessment specialists, many with teaching backgrounds.

*Liz Twist, Head of Assessment Research, NFER*
The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is a charity and, like you, we know that the lives and futures of young people worldwide are inextricably linked to the quality of education they receive. NFER was founded in 1946 with the aim of providing research and insight into education to influence policy and practice and to positively improve outcomes for future generations. This means that when you use NFER resources in your classroom you are supporting our charitable aims and your pupils are benefitting from NFER’s expertise in assessment and education, spanning more than 75 years.

All information correct at time of printing.