



Key dates for 2026 key stage 2 item validation trial

Date	Activity
Early-Mid January	NFER informs local authorities and multi-academy trusts (MATs) (with more than five schools) which of their schools have been selected to participate in the item validation trial (IVT).
Mid-January	NFER writes to schools to inform them of selection for the trial. The letter contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• log-in details for the NFER School Portal (portal)• letter from STA confirming the statutory nature of trialling.
Mid-January	The portal opens enabling schools to log-in to the system to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• access additional information regarding the trialling process• confirm receipt of their notification letter• provide a school contact name and email address• enter dates <u>unsuitable</u> for testing, including school holiday dates• provide NFER with details of their year 6 class.
Early February	School receives email confirmation from the portal which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• confirmation of the selected class and number of pupils• request and instructions for the school to log in to the portal to check their pupil data. <p><i>The school will also receive an email with a new password.</i></p>
Mid-February	School contact should log on to the portal to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• confirm the pupil data for the selected class• add details of any new pupils• request enlarged and/or coloured scripts for pupils.
Early March	NFER sends confirmation of testing date, test administrator name and request to check the selected pupil data. The school should: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• check that the testing date is convenient• check the pupil details are correct• note test administrator name

Mid-late March	<p>Schools can expect test administrators to contact them to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • testing arrangements for the day including room layout • role of the school contact in assisting the administration • requirements to keep test materials safe and secure • modifications to tests that have been requested • access arrangements (additional time, test separately, scribes, readers etc.).
<p>Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May and Monday 01 June to Friday 05 June</p> <p><i>(There are two testing periods to allow for May half term)</i></p>	<p>What the trialling period will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the TA will administer the tests on the agreed day supported by school staff as agreed • schools to provide appropriate staff to support the TA during the administration of the tests. • the TA will collect feedback on the tests from school staff and where appropriate, the pupils • the tests will be checked and sealed in the school to ensure the security of the tests • the TA will give out stickers to all pupils to thank them for participation.

The team at NFER are here to help you at any time.

Telephone: 01753 637136 **Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and during test administration window (Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May and Monday 01 June to Friday 05 June), 8am to 5.30pm**

Email: TPTtrials@nfer.ac.uk