



## 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"><li>• log-in details for the NFER School Portal (portal)</li><li>• letter from STA confirming the statutory nature of trialling.</li></ul>
Mid-January	The portal opens enabling schools to log-in to the system to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• access additional information regarding the trialling process</li><li>• confirm receipt of their notification letter</li><li>• provide a school contact name and email address</li><li>• enter dates <u>unsuitable</u> for testing, including school holiday dates</li><li>• provide NFER with details of their year 6 class.</li></ul>
Early February	School receives email confirmation from the portal which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• confirmation of the selected class and number of pupils</li><li>• request and instructions for the school to log in to the portal to check their pupil data.</li></ul> <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"><li>• confirm the pupil data for the selected class</li><li>• add details of any new pupils</li><li>• request enlarged and/or coloured scripts for pupils.</li></ul>
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"><li>• check that the testing date is convenient</li><li>• check the pupil details are correct</li><li>• note test administrator name</li></ul>

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

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](mailto:TPTtrials@nfer.ac.uk)