

Wickersley St Alban's C.E. Primary School

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The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust

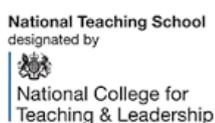
9th May 2019

Information about Year 6 SATS tests.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Next week your child will sit their Key Stage 2 SATS tests. You can help your child by making sure they go to bed early throughout the week and come into school on time throughout the week. SATS are important as secondary schools have to set targets for children based on their Y6 test results. However, we do everything we can to make the experience as calm and relaxed as possible so that children perform at their best and don't get to anxious.

There are very clear guidelines set for schools (called 'access arrangements') which we have to work within, but there are things we can do to help remove stress. These include, for example, letting the children sit tests in familiar rooms with familiar adults, conducting the tests in smaller groups to make the children feel comfortable and also teaching them in the weeks leading up to the SATS that they are allowed to ask for help if they are stuck or panic in the test. We make sure that the staff in the test are trained to know what they are allowed to say and do when this happens: there are very specific guidelines about how and what we can say, for example, if a child says they are stuck or worried. Occasionally children will become anxious and start to look upset, but we have enough adults who know them well and can put their mind at rest, reassure them and encourage them to have to a go. These are all strategies permissible within the guidelines. In addition to adults in school helping your child to feel at ease during their SATS, we also follow statutory guidelines about access arrangements. Access arrangements are adjustments that can be put in place to support certain pupils, including those who have difficulty reading or writing (including, for example, those who are a slow reader or slow writer), difficulty concentrating or difficulty processing information.



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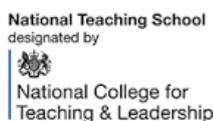


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The adjustments we are allowed to make for children who qualify for access arrangements can include:

- **Rest breaks:** the test time is stopped and the children are allowed to stretch their legs, run around outside, go to the toilet etc. The children are not allowed to talk to each other nor any other pupil who has taken the test.
- **Additional Time:** We use the government framework to assess whether children qualify for an additional 25% extra time. It is usually dependent on reading speed and processing speed.
- **Scribes:** A scribe is where an adult writes the answers for a child. They can assist them in no other way. A scribe is used when a child has difficulty writing, finds it painful or has had an injury.
- **Transcript:** if a child's answer is illegible, a member of staff can ask the child what they have written and the adult would write the answer next to the child's.
- **Readers:** Readers are 1-1 and are assigned before the test. They will also be in a small room environment so as to not distract other pupils. Readers cannot be used in the Reading test. Mathematical symbols may not be read to children. Readers are used when children have difficulty reading texts appropriate to their reading age.
- **Prompters:** Prompters are used if a child has attention problems – which can include children who are find test situations stressful and emotional. A prompter's job is not to read the text but to bring the focus of the pupil back to the test.
- **Timetable Variation:** All children do not need to take the test at the same time. They may do the test in small batches, especially if the school does not have the staff to fill all the necessary scribe, reader, prompter etc. roles. Children must not have contact with a child who has done a test they have not.

We hope that the above information has helped you understand how your child will be supported throughout the SATS in line with statutory guidance. We can assure you that we will make sure the experience is as relaxed and stress-free as possible so that your child is able to perform at their best.



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