

APPENDIX 1 – Summary of revised assessment and reporting arrangements for 2021

The Secretary of State issued a press release early December 2020 announcing Extra measures to support students ahead of next summer's exams. The release covered changes to the approach to secondary and primary assessments for the summer of 2021. There appears to still be more work to do regarding how to address the issue of pupils attending schools in areas such as Manchester, where they have missed significant amounts of time in school compared to peers in other parts of the country. This continues to be our feedback to OFQUAL and the DFE. It has been announced that school-level data from the KS2 national curriculum assessments will not be published in performance tables in 2021, and therefore it is likely that there will not be access to any validated comparative school and Local Authority performance tables again in 2021

Early Years Foundation

- For the majority of Manchester Primary Schools there is no change in the assessment of the Early Years Foundation profile; this remains teacher assessment which is then externally moderated.
- However there are a number of schools who are 'early adopters' of the Early Years Foundation stage reforms and they will follow the early adopter framework.

Yr 1 Phonics screening

- The cancellation of the phonics screening check in June 2020 means that year 2 pupils did not take the check in year 1. Schools are administering a past version of the phonics screening check to year 2 pupils and return results by December 2020 to their LA.
- Year 1 phonics screening check to take place - week beginning 7 June 2021. If pupils are absent, or are unable to take the check, schools may administer the check to them until Friday 25 June.

Key Stage 1 Assessments

- The KS1 tests have been suspended for 2021.
- Schools need to submit Teacher Assessments for reading, writing and maths

Key Stage 2 Assessments

- The KS2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test has been suspended for 2021
- Reading, Writing and Maths Assessments **will continue** as in previous years with **assessment papers for Reading and Maths** and teacher assessments for Writing.
- In 2021, schools do not need to make or submit teacher assessment (TA) judgements for pupils in science.
- Schools must administer the tests according to the statutory timetable unless an application for a timetable variation has been approved. The timetable

variation period has been extended to give greater flexibility to schools if pupils cannot take the tests on the scheduled dates because of coronavirus disruption.

- In 2021, schools may make an application to administer the KS2 tests to pupils up to 10 school days after the dates specified in the test timetable
- **Eid al Fitr is expected to begin on the evening of Wednesday 12 May. Schools may use timetable variations to reschedule the KS2 tests for pupils who will be absent.**
- Introduction of the statutory multiplication tables check (MTC) has been delayed until the 2021/22 academic year.

Changes to KS4 and KS5 Examination/Assessment, 2021

The following extra measures for KS4 and KS5 assessments were announced on the 3rd December 2020 by the Secretary of State:

Three week delay to exams to free up additional teaching time:-

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation;
- a contingency plan meaning that if a student misses one or more exams due to self-isolation or sickness but have still completed a proportion of their qualification they will still receive a grade;
- in the extreme case where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers, then a validated teacher informed assessment can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed;
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.
- Vocational and technical qualifications will also see adaptations to ensure parity between general and vocational qualifications. Some vocational qualifications will require more varied adaptations due to the different qualification types.

The DFE has stated that they will set out further detail on this process, and on adaptations to exams, in the new year.