Reception Baseline Assessment

Do you have a child starting Reception?

If so, your child will be taking part in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

What is the RBA?

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. It became statutory for all schools from September 2021.

What does participating in the RBA mean for my child?

The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils.

How will the RBA benefit my child?

The RBA will provide an opportunity for your child to have valuable one-to-one time with their teacher at an early stage, so the teacher can get to know your child better. It will provide a helpful snapshot of where your child is when they enter reception, so they can be supported in the most appropriate way.

How will the RBA benefit me as a parent child?

When your child reaches year 6, the end of key stage 2, you will be able to see how well your child's school has supported the year group in their time at primary school, compared to other schools nationally.

What if my child cannot access the assessment?

Your child will answer questions verbally or by pointing at or moving objects. The assessment has been designed to ensure that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND), or English as an additional language (EAL). The teacher can pause the assessment at any time if your child needs a break. There are also modified materials available for children with visual and hearing impairments.

How will the data be used?

The data from the assessment will only be used by the Department for Education when your child has reached the end of year 6, to provide the baseline to measure the progress of your child's year group from reception to year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with you, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level.

Will I receive feedback on my child's assessment?

Your child's teacher will receive a set of statements, which provide a narrative description of how your child performed in the assessment. Schools can choose whether to send these to you directly, but they must provide them to you on your request.

For more information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions about the RBA.

For more details, you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.