



Reception baseline assessment: information sheet

The reception baseline assessment (RBA) is a new national assessment that will be administered in all primary, infant and first schools in England to pupils in reception classes. It will be introduced in autumn 2020.

The assessment will provide a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school, establishing a new starting point to measure the progress they have made by the end of year 6.

It is a short (approximately 20 minutes), practical assessment focusing on their early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills. A teacher or teaching assistant will carry out the assessment one-to-one with each pupil, any time in the first 6 weeks of reception. It does not require any preparation at home or at school, and will help teachers to understand what their pupils can do at the beginning of their time in reception.

RBA pilot

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) carries out trials and pilots as part of the assessment development process, to ensure that the assessment works as it should and to understand where we may need to make changes.

STA contracted the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to develop the assessment, including carrying out RBA trials last autumn. This year, we are moving on to a large-scale RBA pilot. This is a national, voluntary pilot taking place in primary schools across England in autumn 2019. Your school has signed up to participate, and may have already started the pilot.

Parental consent

We always provide schools with detailed information about the assessment, both before and after sign-up to a trial or pilot. We have also published information about the assessment on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)¹. It is good practice for schools to share information with parents about what their child will be doing in their first year of school.

It is not a legal requirement for schools to participate in the pilot, and therefore not a legal requirement for each pupil to participate. If parents have any questions about this, or wish to discuss their child's participation further, it is important that they speak to the school in the first instance.

¹ www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment

Findings from the pilot will inform our final version of the assessment for its statutory rollout in autumn 2020. They will not be used to measure the schools or any pupils that have taken part. Each pupil's personal information is stored safely and securely, in line with [data protection regulations](#)².

You can access the privacy notice for the RBA pilot on [NFER's website](#)³.

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² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-act-general-processing>

³ <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/information-about-the-201920-reception-baseline-assessment-pilot/>