



National Data Collection (NDC)

Frequently asked questions

The collection of NDC data for the 2023/2024 academic year

National Data Collection

- Audience** Head teachers, teachers and governing bodies of maintained schools, local authorities, and national bodies with an interest in education.
- Overview** This document sets out the data collection and reporting arrangements for the school year 2023/24.
- Action required** Headteachers, teachers and governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities must ensure that the requirements set out in this document are implemented in line with the dates specified.
- Further information** If you need further advice on the completion of any part of your collection return, please contact your local authority in the first instance.

Enquiries about this document should be directed to:

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- Additional copies** This document can be accessed from the Welsh Government website at:
gov.wales/national-data-collection-schools

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



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1. General issues

1.1 The Welsh Government no longer publishes teacher assessment data at the school and local authority level. Do I need to flag pupils who have NEWBES status anymore?

Yes.

1.2 A pupil has very recently joined the school; previously s/he has always been home tutored. Can s/he be regarded as New to an English or Welsh Based Education System (NEWBES)?

No, as s/he does not satisfy the full criteria for NEWBES status i.e.

- the pupil's first language is not English or Welsh;
- the pupil has arrived from a non-English or non-Welsh-based education system; and
- entered a UK education system on or after 1 September 2022.

1.3 On my Management Information System (MIS), the previous year's figures are not shown consistently; some have a dash instead of a zero.

A dash indicates that the figure is too low to report but is above zero.

1.4 A pupil at our school left before the cut off date. However the school has been informed that the pupil has not yet started school in the other authority. Will our school still have to report his/her NDC results even though s/he left before the specified on roll date?

Yes, as the pupil has not been on another school's roll since leaving your school.

1.5 If a pupil was once NEWBES, this information is retained even after the two-year period has passed. Once the two years have passed, will the pupil's results be counted in the main cohort automatically?

Yes, they will be.

1.6 If a pupil joins a Welsh medium school from an English medium setting with little or no Welsh language skills, do they count as NEWBES?

No, as s/he does not satisfy the full criteria for NEWBES status i.e.

- the pupil's first language is not English or Welsh;
- the pupil has arrived from a non-English- or non-Welsh-based education system; and
- entered a UK education system on or after 1 September 2022.

The school would be required to assess these pupils and report their results as part of the NDC process.

Code 'N' should be used if the school is not able to assess the pupils' attainment in teacher assessments.

1.7 What if a pupil joins a different medium school very close to date on roll with little or no skills of the language of the new school?

If a pupil moves from a Welsh first language school to an English language school or vice versa after January 1st, that pupil's end of Key Stage 3 results may be submitted in which ever language allows the learner to best demonstrate their ability.

1.8 What are the codes for the National Curriculum Outcomes?

NCO1 – C

NCO2 – B

NCO3 – A

1.9 What code do I use to record that a pupil is currently working at a level below that described by National Curriculum Outcome 1?

For a pupil working towards NCO1, the code 'N' should be entered, as a best-fit description of the learner's attainment.

1.10 How do I convert p scales for the NDC for a pupil?

P scales are a set of descriptions used in the English curriculum for recording the achievement of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who are working towards the first level of the National Curriculum (level 1). P scales are not used **at all** in the Welsh curriculum.

We do not record p scales in the NDC. At Key Stage 3 we record National Curriculum Outcomes 1- 3 and NC levels 1 - 8.

The level descriptions can be found in the National Curriculum Orders. Guidance documents have been developed to support the implementation of the school curriculum. These documents, along with related key information, approaches and research can now be found on the following website:

[Curriculum for Wales - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

1.11 A pupil on the school's roll is educated at home only. No-one at the school has ever assessed his/her attainment. How do I record his/her attainment?

Use code N. The guidance states that N might be appropriate "where through illness, pregnancy or other unusual situation the pupil has not attended school for an extended period of time and no prior NC level has been assessed."

See the NDC and reporting arrangements document for more information.

1.12 A pupil cannot take part in a particular subject; shall I use code D or N?

Code 'D' should be used where a pupil has been formally disapplied from all or part of the National Curriculum under the specific circumstances set down in sections 364-367 of the Education Act 1996, now effected through sections 113-116 of the Education Act 2002.

The disapplication code D is only valid under these specific circumstances and should **NOT** be used in any other circumstances.

Code N should be used where in exceptional circumstances a teacher has insufficient evidence and knowledge on which to base a teacher assessment.

In general terms we would expect that even where a pupil has poor attendance an assessment should be made based on evidence and knowledge gathered when the pupil has been present.

For further information please refer to the NDC and reporting arrangements document.

1.13 We have a learner in year 9 who is not moving to the next stage, should they be assessed and their results submitted in NDC?

A pupil is eligible for statutory assessment and their results should be recorded and submitted in NDC if they are in NCY 9 and will be moving to the next key stage in the following academic year. For each phase/stage, learners must be statutorily assessed (i.e. they must receive an end of phase/stage teacher assessment result) once only.

As your learner is staying in year 9 and therefore not moving to Key Stage 4 they will not receive a statutory end of Key Stage 3 assessment this year.

1.14 Do I have to report on pupils' progress against the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) to Welsh Government?

Assessment against the LNF is intended to be used formatively by schools and individual teachers to support learner progress, classroom and curriculum planning.

There is no national data collection in relation to assessments made using the LNF.

1.15 We have a pupil with NEWBES status who arrived in the UK a few months earlier than the date they started school. Do we use the date they entered the UK or the date they started school to determine whether they can be excluded from school statistics?

The date the pupil entered a UK education system should be used.

Head teachers may exclude pupils new to the English or Welsh based education system (NEWBES) from school-level and local authority-level statistics if:

- the pupil's first language is not English or Welsh; **and**
- the pupil has arrived from a non-English or non-Welsh-based education system; **and**
- the pupil entered a United Kingdom (UK) education system on or after 1 September 2022

1.16 I have 30 pupils in my KS3 cohort. My MIS is reporting that 100% of them have achieved level 4 plus in English. How is this possible when the percentage of them achieving level 4 plus for each attainment target (AT) is:

66.6% - Oracy
66.6% - Reading
66.6% - Writing

It is possible for this to happen.

At a pupil level, it is possible to achieve level 4 in English without all ATs being at level 4. For example, due to rounding, a pupil with the following AT results would calculate as

having an English subject level 4:

Oracy – level 4

Reading – level 4

Writing – level 3

Annex C and D of the NDC and reporting arrangements document explain how to calculate a subject level from accompanying ATs (weightings for each AT will differ depending on the subject).

At an overall cohort level, it is possible for 100% of the cohort to achieve level 4 in English, with only 66.6% achieving level 4 in each of the ATs. For example:

Total cohort of 30, of which:	Level			English subject
	Oracy	Reading	Writing	
a. 10 achieve	3	4	4	4
b. 10 achieve	4	3	4	4
c. 10 achieve	4	4	3	4
% of all pupils achieving level 4	66.6	66.6	66.6	100

2. Primary issues

2.4 Should I submit Baseline Assessments outcomes for any learner?

No. From 2022/23, there is no statutory requirement for schools to return Baseline Assessments outcomes.

2.5 Should I submit end of Foundation Phase assessment outcomes for any learner?

No. From 2021/22, there is no statutory requirement for schools to return Foundation Phase assessment outcomes.

2.6 Should I submit end of Key Stage 2 assessment outcomes for any learner?

No. From 2021/22, there is no statutory requirement for schools to return Key Stage 2 assessment outcomes.

2.13 What comparative information do I need to include with pupil reports, in my Governors' Annual Report and School Prospectus?

Regulations no longer require the inclusion of the most recent standard comparative reports with each annual report to parents or adult pupils, in the Governors' Annual Report and School Prospectus.

On 31 July 2018 The Education (Amendments relating to Teacher Assessment Information) (Wales) Regulations 2018 came into force. As a result of these Regulations the Welsh Government will no longer publish teacher assessment data at a school or local authority level and will therefore no longer produce School Comparative Reports for schools to publish.

3. Secondary issues

3.1 For Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) at Key Stage 3, does the school report attainment targets or subject level?

The school reports the three attainment targets into the MIS, which then calculates the overall subject level.

Reporting attainment targets to the Welsh Government is optional; reporting subject levels is mandatory.

3.2 A secondary school has recently taken on a pupil from another country who speaks little English. S/he hasn't attended much school, so we are not sure how to complete the NDC return. Should it be left blank or filled with 'N'?

The pupil should be assessed, and his/her level of attainment recorded.

If teachers are able to carry out an assessment based on prior knowledge of the pupil's attainment, you should enter the levels allocated. If teachers are unable to carry out an assessment, enter the code 'N'.

Depending on the date when s/he entered the school, s/he may be eligible for NEWBES status.

3.3 A year 11 pupil entered my school in March, so was not recorded in the January PLASC. S/he has SEN/ALN and will not be taking any public exams this summer. Will this pupil's performance count towards my school's Summary of Secondary School Performance (SSSP)?

No, this pupil's performance will not count towards your school's SSSP. January PLASC is the source for cohort data for KS4 performance reporting.

Cohort information for KS3 assessment statistics is collected via NDC.

3.4 What comparative information for Key Stage 3 do I need to include with pupil reports, in my Governors' Annual Report and School Prospectus?

Regulations no longer require the inclusion of the most recent standard comparative reports with each annual report to parents or adult pupils, in the Governors' Annual Report and School Prospectus.

On 31 July 2018 The Education (Amendments relating to Teacher Assessment Information) (Wales) Regulations 2018 came into force. As a result of these Regulations WG will no longer publish teacher assessment data at a school or local authority level and will therefore no longer produce School Comparative Reports for schools to publish.

4. Special school issues

4.1 Do special schools need to submit the Baseline Assessment and key Stage 3 elements of the NDC?

No. From 2022/23, special schools are no longer required to submit the Baseline Assessment or the KS3 element of NDC to the Welsh Government.

5. Where can I get more help?

5.1 Where can I get more help about NDC?

This FAQ will be updated periodically if other issues arise that are relevant to many schools. We will place updates on our website and email local authority contacts. Completion notes are also available on our website at:

<https://gov.wales/national-data-collection-schools>.

NDC

For queries on NDC contact us at NDCmailbox@gov.wales