

LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

SATS & EXAMINATION ALLOWANCES

National Curriculum Years, Stages and Levels

School Year	Age of Child	Key Stage	Average Levels
Nursery 1 Nursery 2 Reception	2-3 3-4 4-5	Early years Foundation Foundation stage	Early Learning Goals
1 2	5-6 6-7	Key Stage 1 SATS	2
3 4 5 6	7-8 8-9 9-10 10-11	Key Stage 2 SATS	4
7 8 9	11-12 12-13 13-14	Key Stage 3	
10 11	14-15 15-16	Key Stage 4 GCSE and other forms of accreditation	
12 13	16-17 17-18	AS and A level	

Children who are working towards Level 1 may be given a W level, or a P level. P levels are smaller steps towards level 1. There are 8 P level indicators leading up to Level 1.

When are children tested in school?

Foundation Stage Profile

- From September 2002 all children are assessed by their teachers at the end of their **Reception** year. The **Foundation Stage Profile** covers speaking, listening, reading, writing, mathematics, personal and social development, knowledge and understanding of the world, creative and physical skills. This assessment is to give teachers a picture of children's skills. **They are not pass or fail tests.**

Lewisham Parent Partnership Service
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SATS – Standard Assessments Tasks

- **Standard Assessment Tasks** or SATs test children's achievements in 3 subjects of the National Curriculum – English, Mathematics and Science. Children are tested at the end of Key Stage i.e. in Year 2, (end of Infants) and Year 6 (end of Juniors).
- In Key Stage 1 (Infants) children may be tested in two ways:
- Teacher assessments which look at how well children have learnt something. These are called Tasks and are done in small groups over a few weeks.
- Children may also take Tests. It is now up to the teacher to decide which way to assess each child and when.
- Children only take the SATs test in KS2 (Y6) on the dates which are set nationally.
- All these tasks and tests are designed so that children can show their progress and their abilities. **They will only sit the tests if their classwork has reached an appropriate level for their age.**

Will my child get extra help to do the Tests?

Any extra help your child needs will be decided by their class teacher. Your child may get extra help if he/she

- Normally gets extra help in the classroom
- Has a statement of Special Educational Needs
- Is recorded by the school as having special educational needs.

If your child has SEN your child's class teacher or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) should talk to you about this in plenty of time for arrangements to be made.

Schools have to apply for permission to give some extra support. There is an early deadline for this.

If no-one in school has mentioned extra help in tests for your child, then it may be helpful to arrange a meeting in school to discuss this and the school should inform you what help is to be given. This meeting should happen by January at the latest.

What type of help?

Support may include:

- Help to read the questions
- Additional time
- Use of a computer to write answers
- Someone to dictate answers to
- Extra time/break from tests

There are times when help cannot be given. For example, help with reading during reading tests.

How will I know if my child is progressing?

At least once a year you will receive a written report on how your child is doing at school. This will tell you:

- How well your child is doing in all the National Curriculum subjects and activities in school
- How your child is getting on generally in school
- Your child's attendance
- The results of any SATs tests your child has taken
- The levels your child has achieved

The report should also tell you the arrangements the school makes for you to discuss your child's report. The report will also tell you the things your child is good at and where she/he might need extra help.

You will also have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress when reviewing the IEP or if your child is statemented, at the annual review.

Arrangements for GCSE, A Level and Other Examinations

Who has responsibility for arranging support?

Your child's head teacher has overall responsibility for the examination procedures in school – some schools have an exams officer who takes responsibility for exams and who makes any request for special arrangements for children with SEN. This is done in close liaison with the school's SENCO.

Although the school decides which pupils need special arrangements, it is the Examining Boards who consider each request and make the final decision. Examination Boards have regulations and guidance about the type of support that can be offered to pupils with a particular range of special need such as:

- Hearing and vision impairment
- Physical disabilities
- Severe attention and concentration problems

There are other courses as well as GCSEs that children with SEN may be following, such as GNVQs. Any special arrangements for exams will be agreed with the exam board early on in the course.

Will my child receive help in examinations?

If your child receives additional support during the week, as a result of their learning difficulties, they may be entitled to special arrangements. These arrangements are similar to the support available for SATs.

Examination Boards may request a report from an Educational Psychologist, a specialist teacher or a doctor, to help them make their decision about the type of support which can be given. You can also ask for evidence to be submitted on your behalf. The school will let you know what has been agreed and what arrangements are going to be made.

Note: your child does not need a statement to get special arrangements.

When are decisions made?

Discussions about examination arrangements are usually finalised **by the end of the summer term before the next exam year starts**. This will usually be by the end of **Year 10, or Year 11 or Year 12**. It is probably most helpful if you contact your school in plenty of time so that you can discuss the particular arrangements your school has put in place.

What if I don't agree with the decision?

- You should discuss this with your school.

Further Contacts

Parent Partnership Service: Independent information, advice and support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. Contact details below

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