

Phonics

Meeting the Expected Standard

The phonics screening check is a statutory assessment for all pupils in year 1 to check whether they have met the expected standard in phonic decoding. Pupils who do not meet the expected standard in year 1 take the check again at the end of year 2.

The check consists of 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words that pupils read aloud to the check administrator.

Each pupil is awarded a mark between 0 and 40. The threshold to determine whether a pupil had met the expected standard is 32. Since 2014, this threshold mark has not been communicated to schools until after the screening check has been completed, however its year-on-year stability means it is somewhat predictable.

Outcome	Test Mark	Details
Wa	32 - 40	Working At (Meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding)
Wt	0 - 31	Working Towards (Not meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding)
D	-	Headteacher decided it was not appropriate for the pupil to take the check
A	-	Absent (Pupil was absent from school for the entire period in which the check could be administered)

Percentage meeting the expected standard in 2023				
	School	Consortia	LA	National
Year 1	79	83	79	79
By the end of Year 2	81	90	89	88