



Department
for Education

1 September 2026

Dear Headteacher,

2026 Key Stage 2 (KS2) September Checking Exercise

We wrote to you on 15 July 2026 to inform you that the 2026 KS2 September Checking Exercise will **open on Monday 7 September 2026 and will close at 5:00pm on Friday 18 September 2026.**

This checking exercise should not be confused with the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) deadline for KS2 reviews of marking or clerical errors which has been extended to 7 September 2026. You can view any late results or outcomes of reviews for your pupils on the [NCA Portal](#). If you have any questions regarding this, please contact STA by email at: assessments@education.gov.uk or by telephone on 0300 303 3013.

The KS2 results data available in the [KS2 Checking Exercise Portal](#) was supplied directly by the STA in early July. Reviews of marking or clerical errors **will not** be included in our calculation of figures contained in the pupil CSV file, however, they **will be** included in the KS2 revised data publication in December.

Supporting Information

You are advised to access the [KS2 Checking Exercise Portal](#) on **‘day one’ of this checking exercise**. Evidence shows us that many schools wait until the last few days of a checking exercise to do this. If you need to contact the CYPMD Helpline you need to do this **as soon as possible once this checking exercise has opened** in case you are required to take any action within the [KS2 Checking Exercise Portal](#) before **5:00pm on Friday 18 September 2026**.

In addition to the [2026 KS2 September Checking Exercise Guidance](#) and the [2026 KS2 September Pupil Removal Requests: 'Tips for Schools'](#) which we have previously shared with you, you can now access the following guidance on the [CYPMD Help Centre](#):

- [2026 KS2 September Video Walkthroughs](#)
- [2026 KS2 September 'How to' Guidance](#)

- **2026 KS2 September Pupil CSV File Guidance**

To further assist schools with their participation in the 2026 KS2 September checking exercise we shared the **KS2 September Checking Exercise Requests Summary** in April. This summarises the requests submitted during the 2025 KS2 September Checking Exercise, alongside common reasons why some amendment requests could not be accepted.

Changes since 2025

We have made some changes and improvements to the 2026 KS2 September checking exercise, a full explanation of these changes can be found on page 5 of the **2026 KS2 September Checking Exercise Guidance**.

- circumstances surrounding the 'Child missing education' pupil removal category have been updated to reflect current legislation
- the process for submitting your school's 'full return summary' has been improved. There are now additional prompts and clearer wording within the **KS2 Checking Exercise Portal** to provide further clarity on when and how a 'full return summary' should be submitted (if applicable)
 - these changes are designed to help schools avoid submitting their 'full return summary' too soon or forgetting to submit their 'full return summary' once all pupil amendment requests have been made
 - please refer to the **2026 KS2 September 'How to' Guidance** or the **2026 KS2 September Video Walkthroughs** for step-by-step instructions
- CSV files are now ordered alphabetically by surname

CYPMD Portal

The **KS2 Checking Exercise Portal** will be accessed using a DfE Sign-in account. This is the same secure sign-in system used by many DfE services. Details on how to create an account can be found here: **DfE Sign-in**.

If you encounter any difficulties creating a DfE Sign-in account or have forgotten your login details, please go to this contact form: **DfE Sign-in**.

CYPMD Help Centre

The **CYPMD Help Centre** is the main source of information for the CYPMD service and will be updated on a regular basis to provide important information for schools regarding the 2026 checking exercises and data shares.

We are asking you to check the **CYPMD Help Centre** regularly for updates and save this link to your favourites for future ease of access.

CYPMD Communications

- if you have not already done so, or if additional people within your school would like to receive future communications **you/they can sign-up** to receive CYPMD communications by **sending a message** via the **CYPMD Help Centre** and selecting 'option 1'
- further information about the 2026 checking exercises and data shares will be sent to all school headteachers, **so your headteacher contact details must be correct** on '**Get information about schools**' (GIAS)

If you have any other queries, you can visit the **CYPMD Help Centre**.

Yours faithfully

Department for Education