

Year 6 at Ravensdale Junior School

What do Year 6 children experience?

How can they be supported?



Parents apply to secondary schools at the start of their child's final year in primary education.

Children at Ravensdale Junior School go to various schools around and beyond the city.

We cannot offer advice about different schools.

We do not know about applications and find out where our pupils are going at the same time as parents during the spring term.

Many schools undertake transition activities – coming in to meet and work with children. They also speak to staff here.

In the summer term, secondary schools usually invite parents and children to visit and there are specific school days where children can attend their chosen secondary.

Class teachers explore transition with children – for example, in PSHE lessons – and offer extra support (utilising our Learning Mentor) to children who may feel worried.

The National Curriculum sets out what subjects and content schools have to teach.

It was revised and became statutory in September 2014 for all primary children except those in Year 6 last year.

This cohort of Year 6 children are the first pupils who have to follow the new curriculum. They are the first children to be assessed on it in the SATs for English and Mathematics.

It is much harder than the previous curriculum.

We cover ALL subjects throughout the year.

Teachers are required to assess all subjects and up to now, have given teacher assessment levels for each child for reading, writing, mathematics and science. These levels have always been submitted to the government and listed alongside SATs levels. At the moment, teachers do not know how they will be asked to communicate their teacher assessments.

SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) are set by the government. They are used to judge attainment (what children can do) and progress – how much they have moved on since a previous assessment point)

SATs have been changed for 2016 but schools have not been given much information yet!

This is what we DO know:

*Children will sit a reading paper, a 'SPAG' test (spelling, punctuation and grammar), two mathematics reasoning tests and a calculations paper. Some schools will also be asked to set science tests at a later date.

*The SATs tests for English and Mathematics are taking place W/C 9th May 2016.

*In the past, pupils have been given levels – and been able to sit extra tests to get higher levels. This system has now been replaced.

SATs tests are externally marked. Schools should receive raw scores in July. A short while afterwards, schools will be told how the raw scores convert to a 'scaled score'.

Scaled scores will be /100. Scores over this indicate that a child is above average. Scores below 100 will suggest that a pupil has not fully met the age-related expectations and is below average.

We will share test results alongside our teacher assessments with children and report the information to parents in late July. Results are passed onto secondary schools.

With our pupils, we emphasise that tests just measure performance on ONE day. We take care to value effort made. We continually celebrate and develop personal and social skills and achievements in the full range of school subjects.

Classes practise papers throughout the year so children become familiar with them. Teachers use questions in lessons and teach test technique. We set up support groups to give children extra help when and where they need it.

The Reading Paper

Children have a booklet of 3 or 4 different texts. Non-fiction, fiction and poetry can be included. The texts get harder throughout the booklet.

Children have to answer a range of questions in a separate booklet. They have 60 minutes.

What you can do:

Encourage your child to read a range of texts, ensuring they are sufficiently demanding and lengthy. Listen to passages and ask questions/discuss unfamiliar vocabulary and about the content.

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper

Children have a booklet of test questions to answer in 45 minutes. The questions will generally be in order of difficulty.

Pupils will then undertake a spelling test of 20 words. The teacher reads out a sentence and children fill in a missing word. The marks from both of these tests is added together.

What you can do:

Encourage your child to learn their weekly spellings. Make sure that word meanings are understood and can be used so vocabulary is being extended. See if your child can identify what type of word each spelling is – e.g. a noun, verb, adjective or adverb.

The Mathematics Paper

Children have an arithmetic test. It is 30 minutes and will contain context free questions. For example, 2376×15 and 1652 divided by 28.

In addition, pupils will sit 2 reasoning papers. These tests (40 minutes each), which each get increasingly difficult, require children to solve problems and explain things, applying their skills and knowledge. Marks from all tests will be added together.

What you can do:

Ensure your child can do all 4 calculation methods. They have been taught all of them and we regularly re-teach and revise them. See the sheet of examples stuck into your child's Homework Book.

If children are not fluent with number facts such as basic additions and subtractions e.g. $6+8$ and 23 take away 12 and times table facts e.g. 7×9 and 32 divided by 8, they will struggle with much of their maths.

Some of the Year 6 cannot tell the 12 hour and 24 hour analogue and digital time still. Please help your child to catch up as this crucial life skill is supposed to be mastered by Year 4.

Please make sure your child gets to school on time every day.

Make sure they have time to relax.

Don't plough through test papers and extra work.

Help your child with homework.

Try setting specific amounts of time for some homework tasks.

Get a revision guide to become familiar with what children should know.

Bookshops sell a variety or look online. For example:

<https://www.haslamandhall.co.uk>

THANK YOU!

Year 6 is about so much more than SATs!

