



Standards  
& Testing  
Agency

Standards and Testing Agency  
Earlsdon Park  
53-55 Butts Road  
Coventry, CV1 3BH

Tel: 0300 303 3013

[www.gov.uk/sta](http://www.gov.uk/sta)

Email enquiry form:

[www.education.gov.uk/contactus/sta](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/sta)

Date: 17 January 2017

Ms J Frost,

Executive Officer

Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association

Dear Ms Frost,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 January.

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is responsible for developing, supporting and delivering an effective testing, assessment and moderation system to measure and monitor pupils' progress from reception (age 4) up to key stage 3 (age 14). The STA does not prescribe how the National Curriculum should be taught, or state what tools should or should not be provided to pupils to help strengthen their learning and understanding.

The [2018 key stage 2 Assessment and reporting arrangements](#) provides specific details regarding the security of the test materials. The purpose of this security is to ensure the integrity of the tests is maintained and that no pupil has an unfair advantage.

STA would recommend that schools and their teaching staff are cautious when using lists of words found from social media sites, and question the integrity of the source. If school staff suspect that content shared on social media (or other forums) may have come from leaked test materials, they should report this to STA via the NCA helpline – 0300 303 3013.

The remit of the STA is to ensure that published test results are an accurate reflection of pupils' unaided abilities. The decision to annul test results is not made lightly. Such decisions are only made where there is sufficient doubt over the integrity of the tests or where actions have been taken that led to results that did not reflect pupils' unaided work.

Yours sincerely,

Una Bennett  
Deputy Director – Test Operations  
Standards and Testing Agency