

Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

The Multiplication Tables Check, or MTC, is a short online test taken by all children in Year 4, usually when they are 8 or 9 years old. It is compulsory for most schools, including maintained schools, academies and special schools. Children complete the check during a 2–3 week window in June.

Purpose of the MTC

The aim of the MTC is to see how confidently children can recall their times tables. The national curriculum states that by the end of Year 4, children should know all multiplication facts up to 12×12 and be able to use them accurately and fluently. The check simply helps schools see how well children are progressing with this.

How the Check Works

The MTC is completed online using a tablet or computer and takes less than five minutes. Children answer the questions using an on-screen number pad.

To help them get used to the format, schools have access to a practice version from April. Children can also use:

- **Maths Frame** (available on BGfL and online)
- **Times Tables Rock Stars – Soundcheck mode**

These are both designed to look and feel like the real MTC, and we use them regularly in school.

What Children Are Asked to Do

The check contains **25 questions**. Children have:

- **6 seconds** to answer each question
- A **3-second pause** before the next one appears

Questions are chosen at random from the 2–12 times tables, with slightly more focus on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables. There are 121 possible questions in total, but children will only see 25 of them.

Questions are not repeated in reverse order. For example, if a child answers 6×4 , they will not be asked 4×6 later in the test.

When You Will Receive Results

The check is marked automatically as soon as your child finishes. Schools receive the results once the testing window closes, and your child's teacher will then share their score with you.

Is There a Pass Mark?

There is **no pass or fail** for the MTC. The check is simply a way for teachers to see which times tables children are secure with and where they may need more support. It also helps schools identify any patterns across a whole year group.

Support for Children With Additional Needs

The MTC has been designed to be as accessible as possible. Although extra time cannot be given, teachers can make certain adjustments, such as:

- An audio version that reads questions aloud
- Changing the colour contrast or font size
- Replacing the automatic 3-second pause with a “next” button

These adaptations help ensure the check is fair and manageable for all children.

What Happens if My Child Misses the Test?

Schools have a two-week window to complete the check, plus an extra week for any children who were absent. If a child is away for the entire three-week period, they will not be able to take the MTC.

How You Can Help at Home

Short, regular practice makes a big difference. Helpful tools include:

- **Times Tables Rock Stars (Soundcheck mode)**
- **Maths Frame MTC game**
- Times tables apps, online games and printable activities
- Times tables songs and videos

Little and often is the best approach—just a few minutes a day can really boost confidence and recall.