

This guide shows how to infer a pupil's approximate spelling age from their standardised age score (SAS) in Spelling. The spelling ages below should be used as a general reference rather than an exact value mapping.

In general:

- an above-average SAS suggests a spelling age higher than the pupil's actual age.
- an average SAS suggests a spelling age approximately equal to the pupil's actual age.
- a below-average SAS suggests a spelling age lower than the pupil's actual age.

Year 1

SAS in Spelling	Category	Percentile	Spelling age relative to pupil age
130–142	Very high	Top 2%	~18–24 months above
119–129	High	Top 10%	~12–18 months above
110–118	Above average	Top 25%	~6–12 months above
90–109	Average	Middle 50%	In line with pupil age
81–89	Below average	Bottom 25%	~6–12 months below
71–80	Low	Bottom 10%	~12–18 months below
58–70	Very low	Bottom 2%	~18+ months below

Year 2

SAS in Spelling	Category	Percentile	Spelling age relative to pupil age
130–142	Very high	Top 2%	~15–20 months above
119–129	High	Top 10%	~10–15 months above
110–118	Above average	Top 25%	~6–12 months above
90–109	Average	Middle 50%	In line with pupil age
81–89	Below average	Bottom 25%	~6–12 months below
71–80	Low	Bottom 10%	~10–15 months below
58–70	Very low	Bottom 2%	~15+ months below

Year 3

SAS in Spelling	Category	Percentile	Spelling age relative to pupil age
130–142	Very high	Top 2%	~12 months above
119–129	High	Top 10%	~9 months above
110–118	Above average	Top 25%	~6 months above
90–109	Average	Middle 50%	In line with pupil age
81–89	Below average	Bottom 25%	~6–9 months below
71–80	Low	Bottom 10%	~9–12 months below
58–70	Very low	Bottom 2%	~12+ months below

Year 4

SAS in Spelling	Category	Percentile	Spelling age relative to pupil age
130–142	Very high	Top 2%	~12 months above
119–129	High	Top 10%	~9 months above
110–118	Above average	Top 25%	~6 months above
90–109	Average	Middle 50%	In line with pupil age
81–89	Below average	Bottom 25%	~6–9 months below
71–80	Low	Bottom 10%	~9–12 months below
58–70	Very low	Bottom 2%	~12+ months below

Year 5

SAS in Spelling	Category	Percentile	Spelling age relative to pupil age
130–142	Very high	Top 2%	~9 months above
119–129	High	Top 10%	~7 months above
110–118	Above average	Top 25%	~6 months above
90–109	Average	Middle 50%	In line with pupil age
81–89	Below average	Bottom 25%	~6–9 months below
71–80	Low	Bottom 10%	~9–12 months below
58–70	Very low	Bottom 2%	~12+ months below

Year 6

SAS in Spelling	Category	Percentile	Spelling age relative to pupil age
130–142	Very high	Top 2%	~9 months above
119–129	High	Top 10%	~6 months above
110–118	Above average	Top 25%	~5 months above
90–109	Average	Middle 50%	In line with pupil age
81–89	Below average	Bottom 25%	~6–9 months below
71–80	Low	Bottom 10%	~9–12 months below
58–70	Very low	Bottom 2%	~12+ months below