



Understanding Standardised Tests

Information and Supports for Parents/Guardians

What Are Standardised Tests?

Standardised tests measure how well your child is doing in reading and maths, and how much progress they have made. These skills are important because they support learning in all areas of school. It's important to remember that standardised tests are just one part of how teachers assess your child's overall learning.

When Do Tests Happen?

- They take place in May or June.
- They are required in 2nd, 4th, and 6th class.
- Many schools choose to test from 1st to 6th class.

What Subjects are typically tested?

- English (reading comprehension and vocabulary).
- Maths (problem-solving, number work, and understanding concepts).
- Irish (in some schools).

What are Standardised Tests used for?

- **Keep track of your child's progress** – Teachers use the test results to see how each child is doing and to spot any areas where they might need extra help.
- **Plan teaching** – The results help schools decide how to adjust lessons to better support the children
- **Keep parents informed** – The scores give parents a picture of how their child is doing compared to other children in the class and across the country.
- **Improve the school** – Schools use the results to review how well they are doing and find ways to make teaching even better.

Exemptions from Standardised Testing

- Some children may be exempt if they have a physical or learning disability that makes it difficult for them to take part in a meaningful way.
- Children who have had less than one year of learning through English or Irish may also be exempt.
- The school principal decides whether a child should be exempt, based on what is best for the child and their individual needs.
- In some cases, the principal may decide that a child can take the test if special supports are provided.

Schools must report test results to:

- Parents/Guardians.
- Boards of Management.
- Department of Education and Youth.

Sharing Test Results with You

- Your school will share a written report with you explaining your child's test results.
- Reports are sent before the summer holidays, so you have time to talk to the teacher or principal if needed.

Helpful Resources

- [What do my child's standardised test scores mean?](#) available in several languages.
- [Short video](#) explaining the tests.
- FAQs about the tests: [ERC Parent & Student FAQs](#).
- [What is Standardised Testing?](#)
- Information on [accommodations and exemptions](#).
- Additional guidance about [exemptions and reasonable accommodations](#).

Questions?

Talk to your child's teacher or school principal, they are there to help.