

## NEW Model of Support

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Education Minister Richard Bruton has introduced a new model of support teaching for schools (Circular 0013/ 2017). We are very happy to have four full-time and one part-time teachers who will provide additional support for children in our school.

Recent research, which informs the new directive, indicates that in-class support is more effective than withdrawal for a large cohort of children. In response to this, we will increase the amount of in-class support and reduce the amount of withdrawal.

It will take time for the new system to be fully operational, and we expect to receive further clarification and training during the school year.

## Standardised Testing

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Our annual standardised testing (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes only) in both LITERACY and NUMERACY are completed each year in May. Next year, testing for all children will take place during the week of **28<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June**.

Standardised tests in English reading and maths measure your child's achievement compared to other children in all Irish schools at the same class or age level.

This testing is important for several reasons:

- It allows the teacher an opportunity to assess pupils' progress in various areas of the Literacy and Numeracy programmes
- Results are compared to national norms rather than just the rest of the pupils within the classrooms.
- Once the results have been collected, we can plan more effectively for the various individual areas of these programmes.

Our scores for 2016/2017 show our children are performing well above the national norms in both literacy and numeracy.

In June, all parents will receive copies of their children's school reports. For 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes, these reports have specific sections which relate to Standardised Testing and all pupils will be allocated a standardised score. While standardised testing is important, it is only one form of assessment used by teachers over the course of the school year. Some children find these particular tests a little daunting and the results might not reflect a child's actual level in these cases.

### What do my child's test scores mean?

The teacher uses standard scores to tell you how your child did in the tests. Standard scores usually go from 55 to 145. The table below describes what the different standard scores tell you about your child's achievement in the tests.

Standard score	What does the standard score mean?	Approximate percentage of children who get this score
130 and above	Very high	2%
120-129	High	7%
110-119	High average	16%
90-109	Average	50%
80 – 89	Low average	16%
70 – 79	Low	7%
Below 70	Very low	2%

If your child's standard score is between 90 and 109 for example, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average. The table shows that about half of children in Ireland have standard scores in this range. You can also see that some children have standard scores above and below the average.

Scores for children with English as an additional language may not always reflect progress being made in class. Similar care is needed when interpreting scores for children with special educational needs.