

Standardised Testing

Standardised tests in English reading and maths measure your child's achievement compared to other children in all 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.

In June, all parents receive copies of their children's school reports. 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 used 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.		

For more information on testing, visit www.ncca.ie

As part of the Department's strategy to improve literacy and numeracy skills, the National Adult Literacy Agency developed the website www.helpmykidlearn.ie. This provides some suggestions for enjoyable activities in which parents and their children can engage.
