primary developments
foráis sa bhunscolaíocht

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS **STANDARD SCORE**

What do my child's standardised test scores mean?

What do standardised tests measure?

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. The standardised test in **Irish reading** measures a child's achievement compared to other children in Irish-speaking schools at the same class or age level.

When does my child complete standardised tests?

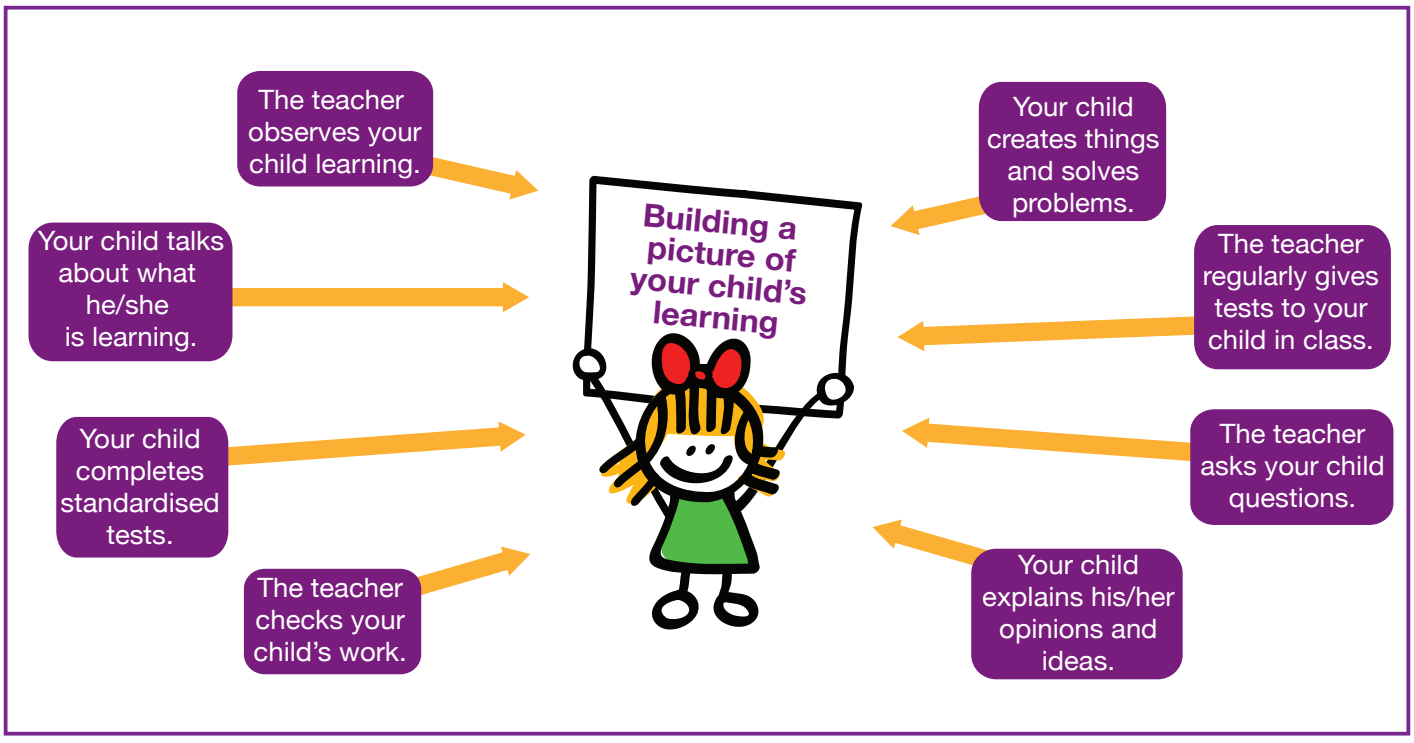
Your child completes standardised tests towards the end of **2nd, 4th and 6th classes.** Your child only completes a standardised test in **Irish reading** if he/she attends an Irish-speaking school. Some schools choose to use standardised tests with more classes.

Do all children take standardised tests?

Your child's teacher will decide which children will take the tests. For example, if your child's first language is not English, the teacher may decide that he/she should not take the English reading test. Your child may, however, take the maths test. If your child has a learning or physical disability, the teacher may decide to use a different way to measure your child's progress.

Are standardised tests the only way of gathering information about my child's learning?

No. The diagram below shows how the teacher uses **many** different ways to build a **picture of your child's learning** during the year. The teacher uses the picture to **celebrate** your child's achievements and to plan the **next steps** needed to build on progress made.



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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.

If my child's score is low, what does this tell me?

A low standard score (for example, 80) suggests that your child ***may*** have difficulties in one of the areas tested. Other assessments may be used to determine if this is the case. Information about your child's learning and development at home e.g. homework, may also be helpful to the teacher. Teachers at your child's school may decide that your child would benefit from extra support. If so, your child's teacher will talk to you about this.

If my child's score is high, what does this tell me?

A high score ***may*** suggest that your child is a high achiever in the area tested. As with low scores, one high score is not enough to confirm this. Your child's teacher will use information from other classroom assessments to understand more clearly how well your child is doing in maths, English reading or Irish reading. The teacher may talk to you about extra learning opportunities that you and the school can provide for your child.

What can affect my child's test score?

As with other tests your child does in school, the score on a standardised test can be affected by how he/she feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event. This means that each test score is an **indication** of your child's achievement. Remember that you play an important role in encouraging and supporting your child regardless of test results. You may like to arrange to meet with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about his/her scores.

How can I help my child?

The NCCA has developed some online resources to help you to support your child's learning in primary school. Many of these are available in various languages and new resources are regularly added to the parents' page at **www.ncca.ie/parents**. Take a look at the resources for your child's class.

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