

Standardised Test Results- End of Year Reports

Our end of year school reports will be released at the end of June. We know that understanding these results can be complicated. We have some information below which we hope you find helpful.

Firstly, standardised tests are not an 'end of year' test (in some schools they are carried out in Autumn). They are **NOT** intelligence tests and are used to help a teacher identify strengths and areas of need in individual pupils and to offer some guidance to parents. **Standardised tests are only one of a wide range of assessment tools used by teachers and results should not be interpreted in isolation.**

While reflecting on your child's progress, it is important to consider other sources of evidence as well as standardised test scores. For example, you might think about feedback from your child and their class teacher, and performance in other tests during the year.

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 you have any questions about your child(ren)'s results, please contact the class teacher.

Interpreting Test Results

Notice for First Class Only: (Reading Tests)

A score is no longer given for First Class standardised reading tests as these are designed as screening tests. This means they are to help schools identify children who may need additional support with reading.

The table below explains what each of these descriptors is intended to mean:

Criterion-referenced Descriptor	General explanation of descriptor
Criterion reached	Within or above the average range for pupils in First Class in Ireland
Approaching criterion	In the average range.
Criterion not reached	Below average. May require additional support.

2nd Class - 6th Class - Reading

1st - 6th Class - Maths

STen Scores

Sten Score	What does this Sten score mean?
8-10	Well above Average
7	High Average
5-6	Average
4	Low Average
1-3	Well below average

Sharing test results with your child.

You know your child best. Will sharing the result cause undue pressure, anxiety or disappointment?

Maybe a general statement might be best to share - "you worked hard and did your best, well done". Sharing of results among peers can cause upset and pressure.

You must consider if it will cause undue worry or stress to your child to share a score every year – they may worry about 'going up' or 'going down' from year to year, when it is perfectly natural for results to do this.

How can I improve my child's reading achievement?

The following activities are intended to develop the reading skills of children at all levels of reading ability:

- Visit a library or bookshop on a regular basis and talk to your child about the books. Ask your child which books s/he likes most, and why.
- Complete 'Summer Stars' programme free in every Library and online.
- Encourage your child to read at a particular time every day – for example, before meals, or at bedtime.
- Encourage your child to read the news sections of newspapers or websites, and summarise what s/he has read.
- Encourage your child to read books based on favourite television programmes or films.
- Read reviews of television programmes, films, or computer programs with your child.
- Discuss with your child what s/he has read. Ask him/her to tell you why s/he liked (or disliked) a story/or other text.
- Discuss ways in which books your child has read are related to activities in school, or to television programmes/or films.
- Junior Infants to 3rd class – continue daily practice on Reading Eggs.

Here are a number of links which give further information:

https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

<https://www.erc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Letter-for-parents-New-Drumcondra-tests.pdf>

We hope this helps explain the interpreting of your child(ren)'s standardised test results.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Boyne