



Parteen National School

Parteen

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Dear Parents,

Children in 1st-6th are taking the New Drumcondra Tests this year. Some changes in scores from previous years are expected. The following information sheet from the Drumcondra Research Centre explains why.

Kind regards,

Gerard Ruane

Mairéad Guckian

This year, your child will take the New Drumcondra Primary Tests. This note is to help you to interpret the results.

Standardised test score results compare an individual child's achievement to that of a 'reference group' of children nationally. The reference groups for the older Drumcondra tests were established more than 10 years ago. Recent studies have shown that children in Ireland are performing increasingly well in reading and mathematics generally. A combination of these factors means that it is no longer as useful to compare the achievement of children today with the reference groups used for older tests. For that reason a new Drumcondra Reading test was devised.

You may see differences between your child's Standardised test results on the new tests and their results on older tests. Due to the mismatch in achievement levels between the old and new reference groups, **some changes in scores are expected nationally with the introduction of the new tests. At the point of transition from older tests to new ones, change is more likely to occur because it is now possible to compare the child's achievement to that of an up-to-date reference group.**

All test scores are only *estimates* of a child's true achievement level, based on a specific set of test questions administered on a particular day. This means that a child's 'true score' on any test may be a little higher or a little lower than the reported score. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment [NCCA] has developed online resources on interpreting standard scores, which you may find helpful. These resources are available in a number of different languages: <https://www.ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents>