

This year, all children from 1st to 6th class were administered the New Drumcondra Primary Tests in Mathematics and English Reading. Children in 1st and 2nd class completed paper based tests. Children from 3rd to 6th class completed their tests online.

Standardised test scores compare an individual child’s achievement to that of a ‘reference group’ of children nationally. The New Drumcondra Primary Tests were piloted in spring 2017, and were standardised on a national sample of pupils in spring 2018. Norms based on the 2018 reference groups were then established. So, if a child receives a score in the ‘average’ range on the New Drumcondra Primary Reading Test, their score is ‘average’ relative to the national sample of pupils at the class level who took that test in 2018.

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 higher or lower than the reported score.

As a screening test the New Drumcondra Testing for 1st Class is intended mainly as a tool to identify pupils at risk of difficulties in Reading and Mathematics. Please refer to the chart below to understand your child’s achievement.

General and Criterion-Referenced Descriptor	
Criterion Reached	Well above average
Criterion Reached	High average
Criterion Reached	Average
Approaching Criterion (Reading/Maths may need monitoring)	Low average
Criterion not Reached (likely be at risk of difficulties)	Well below average

It should be noted that tests are based on a very narrow focus and they are not an indicator in themselves of future progress or success. While reflecting on your child’s progress, you should pay attention to the comments in the school reports as these are the teacher’s evaluation of the overall development of your child. If you need more specific information about your child’s performance in reading and/or mathematics, you may wish to contact your child’s teacher.