



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

**Educational
Research Centre**

Foras Taighde ar Oideachas

National Assessments of Mathematics and English Reading (NAMER) 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The National Assessments of Mathematics and English Reading (NAMER) are carried out in Second and Sixth classes in primary schools. Conducted on behalf of the Department of Education by the Educational Research Centre (ERC), they are an important source of information on national standards. The outcomes contribute to policy initiatives that make the educational system more effective. The National Parents Council supports the survey.

Your child and his/her classmates have been randomly chosen to take part in the 2021 National Assessments. The assessments had been scheduled to take place in spring 2020; however, due to school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were postponed until 2021.

We are conscious that the last year has been extremely difficult for schools, pupils and parents. In light of the ongoing challenges facing school communities, the scope of NAMER 2021 has been adapted and reduced. For this cycle of the Assessments:

- Pupils will complete an English reading test **or** a mathematics test, not both (which would have been the case in previous rounds of NAMER)
- Questionnaires will be administered to pupils, teachers of selected 2nd and 6th classes and school principals (**no** parent/guardian questionnaires will be administered); and,
- Assessments will be administered at the beginning of May to allow sufficient time between NAMER and schools' own standardised tests.

Pupils do not need to practice for the tests or questionnaires, which will happen as part of the normal school day. Your child's class teacher will administer the test and questionnaire. Inspectors from the Department of Education will oversee test administration in a proportion of participating schools.

This project complies with data protection legislation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). All information collected in the survey will be used to inform policy, including curriculum development, and is completely confidential. ID numbers are issued by the ERC to facilitate the administration of tests and questionnaires, and to ensure the confidentiality of pupils, teachers, and schools. It will not be possible to identify individual pupils or schools in the database constructed following the study. Data are stored securely on ERC servers for the duration of the National Assessment Cycle, including subsequent

analysis and reporting. In line with best practice under current legislation (GDPR), both the ERC and schools will destroy the link between pupil names and ID numbers by December 1st 2021.

- If you are happy for your child to participate in the study, **you do not need to do anything further at this point.**
- If you would like more information about the National Assessments 2021, please see the ERC website - www.erc.ie/studies/namer/.
- If you would like to remove your child from the study, please talk to your child's class teacher / school principal.
- If following participation in the study, you would like to remove your child's data you may do so by contacting your child's school before July 30th 2021.

Given the extraordinary circumstances of the past twelve months, this is a valuable opportunity to gather up-to-date information. We greatly appreciate schools' and pupils continued participation during this challenging time.

If you have any further questions about the study, please feel free to contact us by email at namer2021@erc.ie. You can also contact Joanne by phone at 01-8065220.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Noreen Fiorentini
Divisional Inspector
Department of Education



Joanne Kiniry
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