

Educational Research Centre
St Patrick's College
Dublin 9

National Assessments (2009)

School Questionnaire

- Summary responses -

Percentage of principals who selected a response
shown in **RED FONT**.

Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.



AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA | DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Educational Research Centre
Foras Taighde ar Oideachas

About Your School

Some questions ask about **'your pupils'**. If you are also a class teacher, please answer these questions with reference to the school as a whole, not to the pupils you teach.

1. Where is your school located?

- a) The city or suburbs of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick or Waterford.. **36%**
- b) Other large town or city (pop. greater than 10,000) **12%**
- c) A town (population 1,500 - 10,000) **18%**
- d) A village or rural community (population less than 1,500) **34%**

2. What was the average percentage attendance rate of the entire school for the quarter 1st January to 31st March, 2009? ... **92% (mean)**
An estimate is sufficient.

3. In September 2008, what percentage of your pupils was included in the 'School Books for Needy Pupils' scheme? **26% (mean)**
Please refer to Department of Education and Science guideline in place at that time.

4. What is the total number of pupils currently enrolled in your school?

130 (mean)

girls

AND

141 (mean)

boys

5. About how many pupils have a first language ('mother tongue') that is not English or Gaeilge?..... **34 (mean) pupils**

6. Of those in Question 5, how many are receiving ...

- a) Language support, but **not** LS/RT **19.3 (mean) pupils**
- b) LS/RT, but **not** language support **2.7 (mean) pupils**
- c) Language **AND** LS/RT **4.1 (mean) pupils**

7. What is the main language of instruction in your school?

English **93%**

Gaeilge **7%**

8. About how many pupils are members of the Traveller community? **5.7 (mean)** pupils
If none, please write '0', rather than leaving the box blank.

School Resources and Staffing

9. Which of the following do you have in your school?
*Please tick **all** that apply.*

- a) A room used *exclusively* as a central school library **18%**
- b) A room used as a school library which is also used for other purposes (e.g., *resource teaching*)..... **24%**
- c) A classroom library in *some* classrooms **8%**
- d) A classroom library in *every* classroom **91%**

10a. About how many books are contained in **all** libraries in your school? (*there are about 50 books per metre of shelving*) **3081 (mean)** books

10b. About how many are in languages **other than** English or Gaeilge? **19 (mean)** books

11. About how many new titles were added to your school's libraries since September 2008? **396 (mean)** books

12. Is there a teacher in this school whose post of responsibility includes library duties? **67%** yes

13. How many computers are available for use in learning **English** and **Mathematics** by your pupils in:

a) ...a central room (e.g., *a computer room*)? **10.8 (mean)** computers

b) ...classrooms / resource rooms?
*(Enter total for **all** class / other rooms.)* **15.8 (mean)** computers

14. How many interactive whiteboards are available for the teaching of **English** and **Mathematics** in your school in:

a) ...a central room (e.g., *a computer room*)? **0.1 (mean)** whiteboards

b) ...classrooms / resource rooms?
*(Enter total for **all** class / resource rooms.)* **2.7 (mean)** whiteboards

- 15a. Has your school implemented a programme that supports parents in helping their children at home with ...
- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| | Yes |
| 1) Reading | 68% |
| 2) Mathematics | 32% |

15b. IF YES for either, please describe programme:

- Paired/shared reading (70%)**
- Maths 4 Fun (19%)**
- Forward Together (9%)**
- CAPER (7%)**
- Other formal programmes (22%)**
- Informal programmes (31%)**

16. How many officially sanctioned special needs teaching posts for LS/RT are there in your school? **3.3 (mean)** posts

Include: shared positions even if you are not the base school (e.g., one position shared evenly between two schools: 0.5 posts); special needs teacher posts and RT posts for Travellers.
Exclude: SNAs, language support or special class posts.

17. As principal, do you have full-time teaching responsibilities in the current school year? **33%** yes

18. For how many years have you been a school principal? **11 (mean)** years

Provision of Additional Support

19. Roughly how many newcomer boys and girls in ordinary classes are in receipt of English language support from a language teacher?

If none, please write '0', rather than leaving the box blank.

11 (mean)	boys	9 (mean)	girls
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20. Roughly how many boys and girls in ordinary classes in your school would score at or below the 12th percentile on standardised tests of English and Mathematics?

Exclude newcomer pupils in need of language support only.

a) English	13 (mean)	boys	9 (mean)	girls
b) Mathematics	12 (mean)	boys	10 (mean)	girls

21. Roughly how many pupils in ordinary classes are currently in receipt of additional support from a sanctioned special needs teacher (LS/RT) for English and Mathematics?

Exclude newcomer pupils in need of language support only. Write '0' if none.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| a) English | 21 (mean) | boys | 16 (mean) | girls |
| b) Mathematics | 13 (mean) | boys | 13 (mean) | girls |

22. Roughly how many pupils in ordinary classes with an assessed high-incidence specific learning disability (SLD) (e.g., dyslexia) are currently in receipt of LS/RT for English?

These pupils should be at Stage III in the continuum of support. Write '0' if none.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| 5 (mean) | boys | 3 (mean) | girls |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|-------|

23. Roughly how many pupils in ordinary classes with an assessed low-incidence SLD (e.g. hearing or visual impairment) are currently in receipt of LS/RT for English?

These pupils should be at Stage III in the continuum of support. Write '0' if none.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| 5 (mean) | boys | 2 (mean) | girls |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|-------|

Assessment and Planning

24a. Are aggregated results of standardised tests in English and Mathematics discussed at staff meetings?

Yes

1) English **91%**

2) Mathematics **90%**

24b. **IF YES**, are the results used to establish targets for teaching and learning in the relevant subjects?

Yes

1) English **77%**

2) Mathematics **76%**

25. In your school, are standardised tests in English and Mathematics used to help with any of the following? Please tick *all* that apply.

	English	Maths
a) Feedback to pupils	32%	27%
b) Feedback to parents.....	97%	92%
c) Identifying pupils with learning difficulties	100%	95%
d) Monitoring school-level performance.....	93%	88%

26. For each class level in your school, how many times (if any) in the past school year have pupils completed standardised tests of English / Mathematics?

*Write two numbers (for English and for Mathematics) for each class listed. If none, write '0', rather than leaving the space blank. Do **not** count the National Assessments unless they replace another planned assessment. Tick the box in the final column if the class level is not offered in your school.*

	English	Maths
a) Senior Infants	1	0
b) 1 st class	1	1
c) 2 nd class	1	1
d) 3 rd class	1	1
e) 4 th class	1	1
f) 5 th class	1	1
g) 6 th class	1	1

27. Does your School Development Plan, whether complete or in progress, include written statements on the following?

	Yes
a) Grouping pupils for reading	69%
b) Learning outcomes in reading	69%
c) Grouping pupils for mathematics	67%
d) Learning outcomes in mathematics	66%

Your Views

28. In your opinion, what are the three most serious challenges experienced by your school in providing for the teaching and learning of English?

1. **Pupil : teacher ratio (16%)**
2. **Lack of home supports (15%)**
3. **Problems with oral language (15%)**

29. In your opinion, what are the three most serious problems experienced by your school in providing for the teaching and learning of Mathematics?

1. **Pupil : teacher ratio (20%)**
2. **Lack of equipment and storage space (12%)**
3. **Curriculum overload (8%)**

30. If you wish to make any additional comments relating to the teaching and assessment of English or Mathematics please do so below.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.