

TIMSS 2015

TIMSS is an international study of maths and science achievement. It takes place every four years.

In April 2015, pupils in Ireland at Fourth class and at Second Year will take part in the study.

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS stands for *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study*. It is a study that compares how pupils are doing in maths and science across different countries. The study takes place in both primary (Fourth class) and post-primary (Second Year) schools.

How was I picked?

In Ireland, 149 primary schools were picked randomly to take part in TIMSS. In each of these schools, up to two Fourth class groups were selected to take part. You are in one of these classes!

What will I have to do?

You will be asked to do a test that contains some maths and science questions. It will last about an hour and a half, including a short break in the middle. Some of the questions ask you to pick one of four choices, and some will ask you to write a short answer – you can see examples of the type of items in the test at www.erc.ie/timss. After the test, you will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire. It will ask some questions about you, what you think about school, and what you think about maths and science.

Do I need to study for the test?

No, you don't need to study or do anything different before the test. The aim of TIMSS is to see what pupils in Ireland and in other countries know about maths and science.

Will anyone see my answers?

No, all the tests and questionnaires are confidential. When you finish, your test booklet and questionnaire will be sent to the Educational Research Centre in Dublin, where only a very small number of researchers will see them. Your answers there are identified by a number, not by your name.

Why should I take part?

You have been selected to represent Ireland in TIMSS. This is important because TIMSS helps the Department of Education and Skills to find out the strengths and weaknesses of pupils in Ireland in maths and science. The Department of Education and Skills in Ireland will use the results to identify ways to improve our education system. The questionnaire also asks you to tell what you think about your school and your education. It is important that as many pupils as possible take part and that pupils try their best, so that the results reflect the views of all Fourth class pupils in Ireland.

If you have queries, contact:

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