

Information for Students

PISA 2018 Field Trial – March 2017: OECD Programme for International Student Assessment

What is PISA?

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). About 80 countries take part, making PISA the largest study of its kind. PISA assesses the skills and knowledge of 15- and 16-year-olds in three areas – *reading literacy, science, and mathematics* – every three years. The first cycle of PISA took place in 2000, and in 2018, reading literacy will be the main focus.

How was I chosen?

You were chosen at random! First, we picked 40 schools. For each school, we made a list of all students born in 2001. Then, 60 students were chosen at random from this list.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to take a test and a questionnaire in your school in March, and you should be finished by lunchtime. Test Administrators will come into your school and administer PISA.

Students will be asked to take a **test** and a **questionnaire**. Each student will carry out the *PISA computer-based test of reading literacy, science and mathematics* (2 hours), and a computer-based questionnaire (about 70 mins).

You *don't* need to prepare in advance for PISA. There is a practice session before the test begins.

However, if you want to look at the kinds of questions that PISA includes, please visit www.oecd.org/pisa/test

Where did the PISA tests and questionnaires come from?

- The tests were put together by experts in many of the PISA countries. They are not based on school subjects – they look at 'real life' situations that you might come across as a young adult.
- The questionnaires ask about your family and home background, how and when you learn, what you think about reading, your health and well-being, what you plan to do in the future, and your views on computers, smartphones, and the Internet.

Will anyone see my results?

No. The tests and questionnaires are **totally confidential**. When you finish the assessment all information is sent to the ERC. We then build a database of results, where you are only identified by a number. We **never** give information on individuals to others – not schools, teachers or parents.

Your results will be combined with the results of other students to compare students in Ireland as a group with students in the other 80 or so countries. In late 2017, your school will receive a report of how it compares with others in Ireland, but this report does not include the results of individual students.

Why take part?

PISA is important. It helps us to find ways to improve our education system. We use the information to find out how students in Ireland compare with students in other countries. We also use the results to find out how well our education system is preparing students for life after school.

Where can I find out more about PISA?

You can visit the **PISA website** for Ireland at www.erc.ie/pisa or the **OECD PISA website** www.oecd.org/pisa

Phone:

PISA National Project Manager: Caroline McKeown (01-8065201)

PISA National Research Team:

Sarah Mc Ateer (01-8065241) and Robyn Mulligan (01-8065242)

Email: pisa2018@erc.ie

Thanks for your support for PISA!