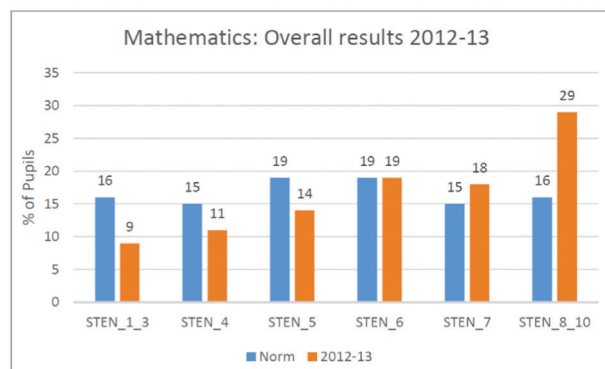
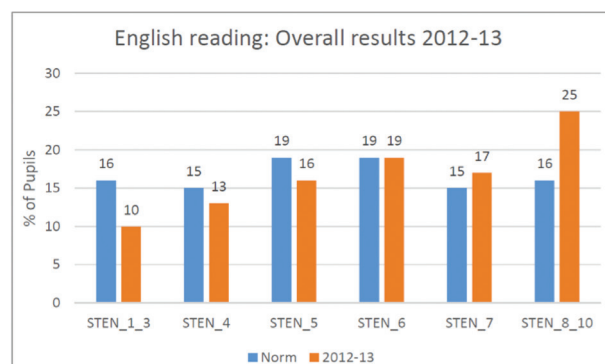


## Why redevelop the tests?

- > Tests generally get easier over time as familiarity with content increases: other Irish-normed tests are more than 10 years old.
- > National improvements in achievement levels:
  - > National Assessments 2014: First statistically significant improvement in reading and maths since 1980 (2nd and 6th class).
  - > Ireland's performance in international studies:
    - TIMSS 2015: Significant improvement in maths since 2011 (4th class).
    - PIRLS 2016: Significant improvement in reading since 2011 (4th class).
- > Department of Education and Skills report (see <https://bit.ly/2zEUwmT>) on national test results from 2011/12 and 2012/13 showed heavily skewed results compared with test norms, as per graphs below (combined data shown for 2nd, 4th and 6th class from both test providers).



## Key features of the new Drumcondra Primary tests

- > Both the New Drumcondra Primary Tests and the Drumcondra Online Testing System (DOTS) have been developed in Ireland, specifically for use in Irish schools.
- > On paper or online, the tests target student engagement through high-quality and interesting test content and (in the online version) an appealing test interface. High engagement makes it more likely that the tests provide accurate measures of what they are intended to assess.
- > Having multiple forms of each test offers limited opportunity to copy. This feature also helps students to concentrate on their own work, leading to higher levels of engagement.
- > The DOTS system:
  - > is cloud-based, fully integrated, and secure. Answers are saved as pupils progress so data are not lost, even if the internet connection goes down.
  - > includes a built-in timer and review screens to facilitate good test-taking practices (e.g., going back to skipped questions).
  - > uses cloud-based technology, meaning that students and teachers can access tests through standard web browsers such as Safari, Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer. Access does not require any specialist software or a separate keyboard or soundcard.
  - > is integrated, meaning that teachers can add students, buy tests, set up test sessions and produce reports, all from the one site.
  - > draws on the latest developments in technology, without overshadowing what is being assessed. Pupils require only minimal IT skills. They are brought through a set of simple instructions and sample questions, with hints, before starting any test.
  - > maintains data security (GDPR compliant), with access restricted to approved users. All data are stored on a secure server (located in Ireland), and transmitted using SSL technology.
  - > allows tests to be automatically scored. Teachers can print or save a report as soon as a student finishes a test!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### For paper booklets

Contact the Test Department  
([tests@erc.ie](mailto:tests@erc.ie))

See [www.erc.ie/tests](http://www.erc.ie/tests)

Call: 01 8377614 or 01 8377380

Fax: 01 8376287

#### For online tests


See [trythetests.erc.ie](http://trythetests.erc.ie)

(no leading 'www.')

Email ([dots@erc.ie](mailto:dots@erc.ie))

Call: 01 8065223 / 01 8065204

or 01 8377380

 @ERC\_IRL for the latest news on test info and training sessions.

# New (2018) Drumcondra Primary Reading and Maths tests

Available on paper and online



## Drumcondra tests - updated in 2018

- > New Drumcondra Primary Tests are available from Feb. 2019.
- > The norms are up-to-date (standardised in 2018), reflecting recent changes in performance on English and mathematics nationally and assessing pupil achievement more accurately.
- > Child-friendly design with full-colour, commissioned illustrations throughout, for a more modern look and to enhance pupil engagement.
- > All content has been replaced with more up-to-date material that reflects the diverse experiences of children in Ireland today.
- > The English Reading Test has been redeveloped to take recent curriculum changes into account.
- > The Mathematics Test has a more practical focus, while still covering key content and processes in the current curriculum.
- > The length of the Mathematics test has also been shortened.
- > An Irish-language version of the Mathematics test is available.



## Testing online

- > The Drumcondra Tests are available online for the first time!
- > Available for **3rd to 6th** Classes.
- > Works on any device - tablet, laptop, iPad, desktop.
- > **No special software is needed – just an internet connection.**
- > Accessed through a regular web browser (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer).
- > Immediate reporting, including individual student reports.
- > Child-friendly design.
- > If you are a new user, please contact the ERC ([dots@erc.ie](mailto:dots@erc.ie)) to get registered on DOTS. Once you're set up, you can buy tests and set up a test session for your pupils at [schooladmin.erc.ie](http://schooladmin.erc.ie)
- > For more information, see [trythetests.erc.ie](http://trythetests.erc.ie)
- > €3 per test taken.
- > All tests are automatically scored and reports generated.



## Testing on paper

- > Available for **1st to 6th** Classes.
- > New screening test for pupils in 1st class, with both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced reporting.
- > Pupils can answer questions using machine-scorable answer sheets.
- > A new scoring system is available to support schools and teachers in meeting reporting requirements.
- > €10 per pack of 5 test booklets (1st-6th class).
- > €10 per pack of 25 answer sheets (3rd-6th class only).
- > Optional machine-scoring service (€1 per answer sheet).

### **Note:**

*All orders for tests in 2019 should be made using the 2019 Order Form ([www.erc.ie/tests](http://www.erc.ie/tests))*

*Support for and sales of the old tests will be discontinued at the end of the 2019/20 school year.*

