

International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS 2009)



Information for Parents

More copies of this information sheet (in PDF format) can be downloaded from <http://www.erc.ie/iccs>

What is ICCS?

ICCS is an international study of civic and citizenship education in post-primary schools. It will be carried out in Ireland and in 37 other countries. A government Taskforce on Active Citizenship recommended that Ireland take part in this study.

The purpose of ICCS is to look at how young people are being prepared to undertake their roles as citizens.

In Ireland, ICCS is being run by the Department of Education and Science and the Educational Research Centre (Drumcondra, Dublin).

Who participates and how are they chosen?

First, schools are randomly selected. Then in each school, one second-year class (or two in large schools) is picked at random. In February 2009, the ICCS assessment will take place in 160 schools in Ireland. About 3,500 students will be asked to participate. Around the world, about 130,000 students will take part. School principals and teachers of second year students will be asked to fill in short questionnaires.

What are students asked to do?

Students don't need to prepare in advance. They will be asked to do a 45-minute test about civics and citizenship. They will then be asked to fill in two short questionnaires. The first asks about things like their home background, attitudes to civic and citizenship issues, and what activities they do during and after school. The second asks questions about Europe and the EU. Your son or daughter may withdraw from the study at any stage.

Why should my son or daughter take part?

ICCS will provide important information about civic and citizenship education in Irish schools. It will allow us to compare our education system to systems in other countries. This will help us to see how our system can be improved. It is important that as many students as possible take part so that the results represent all groups of students in Ireland.

All information collected is dealt with confidentially. It will not be possible to identify schools, teachers or students, since ID numbers rather than names are used. We will use the results to describe large groups of schools and students (for example, the attitudes of girls compared to boys). We will not publish reports on individual schools or students.

For further information:

Visit the ICCS website for Ireland at <http://www.erc.ie/iccs>

Visit the international ICCS website at <http://iccs.acer.edu.au>

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