



TIMSS is one of the world's largest studies of educational achievement.

In March/April 2019, Fourth Class and Second Year students in Ireland will take part in TIMSS.

### **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 more than 60 different countries worldwide. The study takes place in both primary (Fourth Class) and post-primary (Second Year) schools.

### **How was my school picked?**

In Ireland, 151 primary schools were selected randomly to participate in TIMSS, from a list of all primary schools in Ireland. In each of these schools, either one or two Fourth class groups are selected randomly by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) to take part in the study. In addition, 152 second-level schools are taking part.

### **How do I take part?**

You will be asked to do a test that contains maths and science questions. It will last about an hour and a half, including a break in the middle. Some of the questions ask you to pick one of four choices, and some ask you to write a short answer – you can see examples of the type of items in the test at [www.erc.ie/timss](http://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, what you think about maths and science, and any experiences you may have had of bullying behaviour.

### **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 simply 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 (like this: 8010101), 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. They 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 you try your best, so that the results give a fair reflection of the views of all Fourth Class pupils in Ireland.

#### ***If you have queries, contact:***

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