



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

In spring 2023, Fourth Class and Second Year students in Ireland will take part in TIMSS.

Information for Pupils

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 almost 70 countries worldwide. The study takes place in both primary (Fourth Class) and post-primary (Second Year) schools. In TIMSS 2023, some pupils will take the test on a computer and others will take it on paper. Testing will take place in all schools **between March 20th and April 28th, 2023**.

How was my school picked?

In Ireland, approximately 200 primary schools are randomly selected to participate in TIMSS, from a list of all primary schools in Ireland. In each of these schools, up to two Fourth Class groups are selected randomly to take part in the study.

What will I have to do?

You will be asked to do a test that contains maths and science questions either on a computer or on paper. It will last about an hour and a half, including a break in the middle. After the test, you will be asked to fill out questionnaires which should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. Firstly, you will be asked about how you found taking the test. Secondly, you will be asked 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 for the test. The aim of TIMSS is to see what pupils in Ireland and other countries know and think about maths and science.

Will anyone see my answers?

No, all answers to the tests and questionnaires responses are **confidential**. When you finish, your answers will be sent to the Educational Research Centre in Dublin, where only a very small number of researchers will see them. Your answers are identified only by a number (like this: 8010101), not by your name.

Why are Irish schools taking part in TIMSS?

You have been selected to represent Ireland in TIMSS. This is important because TIMSS helps the Department of Education to find out the strengths and weaknesses of pupils in Ireland in maths and science. The questionnaire also asks you to tell what you think about your school and your education. The results will be used to help improve our education system for everyone. 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 any queries,
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If you would like to know what type of questions are used in the TIMSS Fourth Class test, click [here](#).