

Drumcondra Standardised Test

1st Class – English & Maths

- The standardised tests that we use at this level are designed to be used as screening tests i.e. the primary purpose of these tests is to identify pupils who may be at risk of difficulties, so that further assessment can be carried out and their needs addressed
- As such, they focus on the key concepts and skills at this level
- They are not intended to capture the full range of mathematical or literacy achievement of any child
- Instead of STen scores, 1st Class English and Maths standardised test results are now provided using 3 descriptors:

Interpreting The Results

Descriptor General Explanation Of Descriptor

Criterion Reached This indicates that your child has accessed successfully most aspects of this year's maths or reading programme

Approaching Criterion This indicates that your child has successfully achieved in some aspects of the reading or maths programmes covered during the year

Criterion Not Reached This indicates that your child encountered difficulties in reaching some of the learning targets in reading and maths for the year. He/she will receive some additional assistance in these areas over the coming school year

Drumcondra Standardised Test 2nd Class – 6th Class English & Maths

The standardised tests that we use at this level are standardised tests in English reading and maths and are used to help measure your child's achievement compared to other children in all schools at the same class or age level.

Interpreting The Results

STen Score What Does the STen Mean? Proportion Of Children With This Score

8 - 10 Well above average 1/6 or almost 17%

7 High average 1/6 or almost 17%

5 - 6 Average 1/3 or almost 34%

4 Low average 1/6 or almost 17%

1 -3 Well below average 1/6 or almost 17%

- The teacher uses STen scores to tell you how your child did in the tests and they go from 1 to 10.
- The table above describes what the different STen scores tell you about your child's achievement in the tests.
- If your child's STen score is between 5 and 6 for example, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average.
- The table shows that about one in every three children in Ireland have STen scores in this range.
- You can also see that some children have STen scores above and below the average.

- Scores for children with English as an additional language may not always reflect progress being made in class.
- Similar care is needed when interpreting scores for children with special educational needs.

If my child's score is low, what does this tell me?

- A STen score of 1, 2 or 3 suggests that your child may have difficulties in one of the areas tested.
- Other assessments may be used to determine if this is the case. Information about your child's learning and development at home e.g. homework, may also be helpful to the teacher.
- Teachers at your child's school may decide that your child would benefit from extra support. If so, your child's teacher will talk to you about this.

If my child's score is high, what does this tell me?

- A STen score of 8, 9 or 10 may suggest that your child is a high achiever in the area tested.
- As with low scores, one high score is not enough to confirm this.
- Your child's teacher will use information from other classroom assessments to understand more clearly how well your child is doing in maths, English reading or Irish reading.
- The teacher may talk to you about extra learning opportunities that you and the school can provide for your child.

It is important to remember:

- That standardised tests such as these form only one part of the 'jigsaw of information' about your child's overall progress.
- Results should always be framed in a broader context.
- The school gleans much important information from a variety of valuable sources e.g. routine observation, class and individual tasks, class participation, various assignments and homework, teacher-designed tasks and tests and other tests, reports and feedback.
- All of this information helps us to plan and work around optimising your child's learning. In the usual way, your child's teacher will be in touch should a need for further monitoring or support be identified.

What can affect my child's standardised test score?

- As with other tests your child does in school, the score on a standardised test can be affected by how he/she feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event.
- This means that each test score is an indication of your child's achievement.
- Remember that you play an important role in encouraging and supporting your child regardless of test results.

- You may like to arrange to meet with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about his/her score.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)

- This information guide was compiled from information you can access on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) website, including this useful document to help you interpret STen scores:

- https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

- The NCCA has developed some online resources for parents to help you to support your child's learning in primary school and many of these are available in various languages:

- <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents>

- The NCCA has also created this video explaining how to interpret your child's overall school report:

- <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/reporting-and-transfer/>