

The Department of Education sets certain requirements for assessing your child and reporting to you. These are called statutory arrangements.

They include the use of the Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) for certain year groups, a parent meeting and the Annual Report.

Primary schools in Northern Ireland have been gradually introducing the InCAS arrangements since 2007.

Some parents may already be familiar with these arrangements. However, for those who are not they are explained in this leaflet.

The steps involved are outlined below:

Step 1: InCAS

During the autumn term, if your child is in Year 4, 5, 6 or 7 they will complete InCAS for Reading and General Maths. These may be taken in English or Irish. The outcomes will be reported to you in writing during the autumn term.

Step 2: Parent Meeting

If your child is in Year 4, 5, 6 or 7, you will be invited to a meeting with your child's teacher during the autumn term.

If your child is in Year 1, 2 or 3, it is general practice that you will be offered a parent meeting at a time during the school year chosen by the school to suit the learning and teaching that is taking place.

Step 3: Annual Report

Before the end of the school year, you will receive an Annual Report with headings that match the Northern Ireland Curriculum for whichever year group your child is in.

More about

InCAS

InCAS is a computer-based assessment where the first question is selected according to your child's age. Further questions then depend on how your child responds. If they answer correctly, the questions will become more difficult and if they answer incorrectly, they become easier.

This means that InCAS adapts to the ability of your child, helping to identify strengths and areas for improvement so that the teaching and learning the teacher plans meets your child's needs.

What will the InCAS results look like?

InCAS will produce a Reading Age and a General Maths Age for your child.

For example, your child may be 9 years old but have an InCAS Reading Age of 11 years. This means that their reading ability is the same level that InCAS would expect from an 11-year-old child in Northern Ireland.

Are InCAS the only assessments children now do in school?

No. Teachers will continue to assess your child throughout the school year using a range of methods such as marking classwork, homework, tests and observations.

However, InCAS is the only assessment that **must** be completed and reported to you in writing in the autumn term.

What if my child has special educational needs?

Most children with special educational needs will have to complete InCAS.

Only those with severe (SLD) or profound and multiple (PMLD) learning difficulties are exempt.

Can the InCAS results be used for selection at post-primary level?

No. InCAS results will not be used in this way.

They are for school use only.

More about the

Parent Meeting

What will be different this year?

If your child is in Year 4, 5, 6 or 7, you will be invited to a parent meeting during the autumn term. You will be given information about your child's progress across the curriculum.

The teacher will also discuss the outcomes of your child's InCAS assessments for Reading and General Maths, what these results mean for your child and how their learning can be supported both in school and at home.

What if my child has special educational needs?

If your child has special educational needs and is in Year 4, 5, 6 or 7, you will be invited to a parent meeting during the autumn term. The teacher will discuss your child's progress across the curriculum and the plans which are in place to support their future development.

If your child has taken the InCAS assessments, the teacher will also discuss the outcomes of these assessments.

More about the

Annual Report

The Annual Report will give you information about your child's progress during the year and identify any areas for improvement. The content is explained overleaf.

