

## What is the DRT?

The Drumcondra Reasoning Test (DRT) is a test of **general reasoning ability** for students who are near the end of Sixth class or in First Year. Students do not need to practice for it. It is used to see if your child might have particular strengths or weaknesses on verbal or numeric ability

## What does it measure?

The test measures:

### - Verbal Reasoning

### - Numeric Ability

### - Overall Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning measures how well your child can understand and reason with words. For example, it includes being able to pick words that have similar meanings, words that are opposite in meaning, and to complete analogies (e.g., "Night is to day as hot is to \_\_\_\_\_"). Students are given **20 minutes** for this part of the test.

Numeric Ability measures ability to reason with numbers. Questions include things like working out a percentage, finding the next number in a sequence, and ordering fractions by size. Students are given **30 minutes** for this part of the test.

Overall reasoning is the combined score on the Verbal and Numeric parts of the test.

## What do the scores mean?

The test uses *standardised scores* to describe how your child did on the test. These scores range from 60 to 140. The average score is 100, and most students score between 85 and 115. The table below shows where your child's scores fit in, relative to other students in Ireland.

Score Range	What does it mean?	Approx. percent in this category
120 or higher	Well above average	10%
109 - 119	High average	20%
93 - 108	Average	40%
81 - 92	Low average	20%
80 or lower	Below average	10%

## What next?

Like any test, the results are an estimate of a student's ability on one day, on one test. The DRT provides useful information for teachers, but it is only one piece in the jigsaw of information about a student. Many things can affect how a student does on a test –some get nervous, others might be ill or too tired to concentrate.

If your child's test scores are not what you expected, please talk to your child's teacher. He/she will be able to put the test results in context. For example, students with very good scores might benefit from extra learning opportunities, while those with very low scores might benefit from extra support.

Your child's school will be able to use other information to see if the test results really reflect your child's general ability levels, or if things like nerves affected results.

Also, the NCCA has developed online resources relating to standardised testing for parents ([www.ncca.ie/parents](http://www.ncca.ie/parents)), which you might find helpful.