



Foras Taighde ar
Oideachas
Educational
Research Centre

DRUMCONDRA ONLINE TESTING SYSTEM

The Educational Research Centre is excited to announce
the launch of our new online assessment platform:
ERC DOTS (Drumcondra Online Testing System)

- Available for schools to use from April 2021
- Includes the Drumcondra Tests (New **Primary** Reading and Mathematics tests, normed in 2018) and **Post-Primary** Reading, Mathematics and Reasoning tests (normed in 2016)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

See tests.erc.ie | Email dots@erc.ie with any queries or to arrange a callback.

KEY FEATURES OF ERC DOTS

- The new ERC DOTS system:
 - has been **developed in Ireland, specifically for use in Irish schools.**
 - is fully integrated, so **teachers can add students, buy tests, set up test sessions, access manuals, monitor live test sessions, and obtain reports, all from one site.**
 - **targets student engagement through high-quality and interesting test content** and an appealing test interface. High engagement makes it more likely that the tests provide accurate measures of what they are intended to assess.
 - has **multiple forms of each test**, offering limited opportunity to copy. This also helps students to concentrate on their own work, leading to higher levels of engagement.
 - is cloud-based, fully integrated, and secure. **Answers are saved as students progress**, so data are not lost, even if the internet connection goes down.
 - includes **review screens and a built-in timer** to facilitate good test-taking practices (e.g., going back to skipped questions).
 - is easy to use. **Tests are accessed via standard web browsers** (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer). **There is no need to download or install anything.**
 - **works on any device** (tablets, laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, desktops). Access does not require any specialist software or a separate keyboard.
 - draws on the latest developments in technology, without overshadowing what is being assessed. **Students require only minimal IT skills.** They are brought through a set of **simple instructions and sample questions**, with hints, before starting any test.
 - **maintains data security (GDPR compliant).** Access is restricted to approved users, and all data are stored on a secure server located in Ireland.
 - allows tests to be **automatically scored. Teachers can print or save a report as soon as the test session is finished.**
- **The test norms on ERC DOTS are up-to-date**, reflecting recent changes in performance on English and maths nationally and assessing student achievement more accurately.
- All content on ERC DOTS has been developed in recent years, which means the tests draw on **up-to-date material reflecting the diverse experiences** of children in Ireland today.

If you are a new user, please contact the ERC (dots@erc.ie) to get registered on ERC DOTS.
If you previously used our online tests (pre-2021), any unused test credits will be available to your school on the new system.

Once you're set up, you can buy tests and set up a test session for your students straightaway at schooladmin.erc.ie.



PRIMARY TESTS

€3
per test
taken

Available for 3rd to 6th Classes.

- The **Drumcondra Primary Reading Test (DPRT) (2018)**.
 - Based on a broad variety of texts and assesses a broad range of cognitive process skills.
- The **Drumcondra Primary Maths Test (DPMT) (2018)**.
 - Test content has been newly developed and standardised, meaning that the norms accurately reflect current achievement levels in Irish schools.

- **Triail Nua Dhroim Conrach sa Mhatamaitic do Bhunscoileanna (TMDB) (2018)**

- Tá ábhar trialach nuafhorbartha agus caighdeánaithe, rud a chiallaíonn go léiríonn na noirm leibhéil ghnóthachtála reatha go cruinn i scoileanna a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge.

POST-PRIMARY TESTS

Available for 1st and 2nd Years.

€4
per test
taken

- The **Drumcondra Reasoning Test (DRT) (2016)** (for 1st Year students).
 - Assesses Verbal Reasoning (understanding, thinking and reasoning in and with words), Numeric Ability (reasoning with numbers and manipulating numeric relationships), and overall reasoning skills.
- The **Drumcondra Post-Primary Reading Test (DPPRT) (2016)** (for 2nd Year students).
 - Comprises reading vocabulary and reading comprehension items, and evaluates the cognitive process skills needed for reading (Access & Retrieve, and Integrate & Evaluate).
- The **Drumcondra Post-Primary Maths Test (DPPMT) (2016)** (for 2nd Year students).
 - Aligned with the strands of the 2016 Junior Cycle Mathematics Syllabus.
- **Triail Dhroim Conrach don Léitheoireacht Ghaeilge (Gaelcholáistí) (TLGG) (2015)** (dírithe ar dhaltáí ag deireadh na Dara Bliana).
 - Is triail chaighdeánaithe ar léitheoireacht na Gaeilge do dhaltáí sa dara bliain i nGaelcholáistí, aonaid lán-Ghaeilge agus sruthanna lán-Ghaeilge í an Triail Dhroim Conrach don Léitheoireacht Ghaeilge (Gaelcholáistí).

MORE POST-PRIMARY TESTS COMING SOON ON ERC DOTS

- The **Spatial and Abstract Reasoning Test (SAR) (2019)** (for 1st Year students)
 - Composed of four parts: Reflections & Rotations, Nets & Perspectives, Sets of Shapes, and Sequences.
- **Post-Primary Assessment and Diagnosis - English (PPAD-E) (2019)** (for 1st Year students).
 - The PPAD-E is a new screening and diagnostic tool for assessing English literacy skills, developed in collaboration with NEPS.
 - PPAD-E is available as a paper-based assessment for Autumn administration. Purchase of the PPAD-E suite of materials includes access to the Scoring and Reporting Tool in the DOTS platform, including reports with standardised scores for each sub-test.
- **Triail Mhatamaitice Dhroim Conrach d'Iar-bhunscoileanna (TMDI) (2016)** (dírithe ar dhaltáí ag deireadh na Dara Bliana).
 - Is triail ar ghnóthachtáil sa mhatamaitic atá bunaithe ar an gcúraclam í.

