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## School Policy on Testing

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### (A) Standardised Tests

(e.g. MICRA-T, SIGMA\_T, Drumcondra Test of Early Literacy and Numeracy)

Standardised tests are administered to all children from Senior Infants to Sixth class once each year. The purpose of these tests is to apply an independent standard against which the progress and abilities of the children may be measured with a view to supplying appropriate educational interventions where needed.

The validity and reliability of these tests depend on the strictness with which the instructions for their administration are followed. It is, therefore imperative that the tests be administered, and corrected with due care.

**Results:** The results of these tests are strictly confidential. A copy of the results should be given to the principal. A second copy should be given to the learning support teacher. A third copy should be retained by the class teacher. **Under no circumstances are children to be given the results of their tests. Under no circumstances are children to be made aware, either directly or indirectly of the results achieved by their peers.** Results are given on End of Year reports.

### (B) Teacher Designed Tests

Teacher designed tests are usually administered at the end of each term, and at the end of the academic year, or at the end of an instructional cycle. The purpose of these tests is twofold. Firstly, they are a diagnostic instrument by which a teacher measures the effectiveness of his/her instruction and from which he/she will plan future instruction. Secondly, they allow the teacher to assess the progress of individual pupils, and areas of difficulty being experienced by them which may need further intervention.

**Results:** While the results of these tests do not fall into the same category of confidentiality as those pertaining to standardised tests, nevertheless, **care should be taken in the manner in which they are used.** Children are to be given the results of their own tests, a copy of which in all cases be forwarded to their parents/guardians. They may also be given the class average in each case. It would be inappropriate to disclose the rank order of the results for the whole or majority of the class. Children who improve from test to test should be praised for their own efforts, while those who do not should be encouraged to do better. **Under no circumstances should test results be used either directly or indirectly to undermine any child's self-esteem.**

*The above policy reflects the thinking and best practice of the Department of Education and Science, and the I.N.T.O. It also indicates what is expected of professional educators. This policy will be reviewed when the New Curriculum has been implemented in all subject areas.*