An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige
Department of Education
and Youth

List of assessment instruments/tests for guidance or for additional and special educational needs in post-primary schools per circular 0023/2026

July 2026

Introduction

Circular 0023/26 provides advice on the use of assessment instruments/tests for guidance or for additional and special educational needs (SEN) in post-primary schools (revising circular 0084/2024).

This document provides a list of assessment instruments, which may be utilised in line with the advice outlined in the circular.

In considering the assessments noted below, the purpose of administration is of primary importance: what you want to find out. When possible, obtain a sample of the assessment and use the school's collective professional judgements to decide if it will provide the information needed. Schools should be aware that the majority of these instruments are developed and standardised in either the UK or the US and some may feature non-Irish cultural references or spellings.

Certain assessments can be administered by teachers, while others require additional or specialised qualifications. This document has endeavoured to indicate the user qualifications for each named test; however, these may vary dependent upon the publisher. Ultimately, it is the user's responsibility to ensure that they possess the necessary qualifications for the ethical administration and interpretation of any selected assessment.

Achievement tests

Literacy: reading, spelling, language awareness/processing and reading comprehension

The items in the list below assess a range of literacy skills including phonology, reading accuracy, oral-word reading, silent-passage reading, reading fluency, reading comprehension, reading rate or speed, listening comprehension, spelling and handwriting.

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
Access Reading Test, 2025 (ART)	2024	Written/ Digital option	Literal comprehension, Vocabulary, Comprehension requiring inference and analysis.	10-16	UK	Teacher	Hachette Learning
Adult Reading Test – Second Edition (ART -2)	2016	Oral/Written	Reading accuracy, comprehension and reading speed.	16 years plus	UK norms	Specialist Training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellor	Pearson Clinical Assessment
Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing – Second Edition (CTOPP-2)	2013	Oral	Phonological awareness and memory, rapid symbolic and non-symbolic naming.	4 - 24	USA	Teacher	PRO – ED, Inc
Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting, Second Edition (DASH-2)	2024	Written	Speed and automaticity of handwriting across copying, alphabet writing and extended writing tasks.	8-25	UK and Australian /New Zealand norms	Teacher	Pearson Clinical Assessment
Diagnostic Reading Analysis– Third Edition (DRA 3)	2019	Oral	Reading accuracy, reading fluency, reading rate, listening comprehension and reading comprehension	6.09 – 16.08 years	UK norms	Teacher	Outside the box learning resources

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
Diagnostic Spelling Tests 3-5 Secondary, (DST)	2006	Oral	Spelling accuracy, spelling development and patterns of spelling errors.	9 to 25+	UK Norms	Teacher	Hachette Learning
Drumcondra Post-Primary Reading Test (DPPRT)	2015	Written	Reading comprehension and reading vocabulary.	Second Year	Irish	Teacher	ERC
Gray Oral Reading Test-Fifth Edition (GORT-5)	2012	Oral	Oral Reading Fluency, and Comprehension.	6-23	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
IDL Literacy Screener	2025	Digital	Reading accuracy, spelling, phonological awareness	8 - 18	UK	Teacher	IDL
Lucid Exact	2025	Digital	Reading accuracy, reading comprehension, spelling, phonological processing skills.	13-18	UK	Teacher	GL Assessment
Measúnú agus Diagnóisic Litearthachta don Iarbhunscoil - Gaeilge (MDLI-G)	2025	Written	Irish-language literacy skills, including word reading, reading comprehension, reading speed, spelling and written language skills.	First Years, Third Years	Irish	Teacher	ERC
Nelson-Denny Reading Test (NDRT)	2019	Written	Silent Reading Vocabulary, Comprehension and Rate.	14-24	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
New Group Reading Test (NGRT)	2010	Written/Digital option	Reading accuracy, reading comprehension & vocabulary	5-16	UK	Teacher	GL Assessment

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
New Group Spelling Test (NGST)	2018	Digital	Spelling accuracy, spelling attainment and application of spelling rules and patterns.	7-14	UK	Teacher	GL Assessment
Oral and Written Language Scales-Second Edition (OWLS-II)	2011	Oral/Written	Listening comprehension, oral expression, reading comprehension and written expression skills	3-21	USA	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	Western Psychological Services (WPS)
Post-Primary Assessment and Diagnostic- English (PPAD-E)	2020	Written	Word reading, spelling, reading comprehension, reading speed and writing samples. An online scoring and reporting tool is available	First Years / Third Years	Irish	Teacher	ERC
SPaRCS Test	2018	Oral/Written	Processing speed, reading comprehension speed/fluency and spelling.	13-18	Irish	Teacher	Education Elephant
Tests of Dyslexia Screener (TOD-S)	2024	Digital	Receptive vocabulary knowledge, letter/word recognition and question reading fluency	5 – 89	USA	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	Western Psychological Services (WPS)
Test of Expressive and Receptive Morphology (TERM)	2025	Oral/Written	Understanding and use of grammatical morphemes, word structure and word formation in spoken and written language.	6-17	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
Test of Expressive Language (TEL)	2014	Oral	Expressive vocabulary, word retrieval, sentence formulation, grammatical language use	3-12	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
Test of Silent Contextual Reading Fluency – Second Edition (TOSCRF-2)	2014	Written	Silent reading fluency, contextual word recognition and comprehension of connected text.	7-24	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
Test of Silent Word Reading Fluency – Second Edition (TOSWRF-2)	2014	Written	Silent word recognition, automatic word identification and word-level reading fluency	6-24	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
Test of Word Reading Efficiency – Second Edition (TOWRE-2)	2012	Oral	Sight-word reading efficiency and phonemic decoding efficiency	6-24	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
Test of Written Spelling – Sixth Edition (TWS-6)	2026	Written/Digital option	Letter pattern knowledge, spelling accuracy, word spelling and application of spelling rule	6-18	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach don Léitheoireacht Ghaeilge (TLGG)	2016	Digital	Irish-Language Reading Skills (vocabulary and comprehension) for students attending Irish-medium secondary schools.	Second Year	Irish	Teacher	ERC

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition – For Teachers (WIAT-III UK-T)	2018	Oral/Written	Reading, comprehension, spelling, and mathematics.	4 – 25	UK	Teacher	ETC Consult
Wide Range Achievement Test – Fifth Edition (WRAT- 5)	2017	Oral/Written	Measures reading, spelling, sentence comprehension and maths	5 – 85+	UK	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	ETC Consult
Woodcock Reading Mastery Test – Third Edition (WRMT-III)	2011	Oral/Written	Phonological awareness, letter and word identification, rapid naming, oral fluency, word attack, listening, word and passage comprehension.	4.06 – 79.11	US norms	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	Pearson Clinical Assessment
Woodcock Johnson V Achievement Tests – Fifth Edition (WJ-V ACH)	2025	Digital	41 subtests assessing reading, writing, mathematics, oral language, academic fluency and academic knowledge	4 – 90	USA	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	Education Elephant
Woodcock Johnson IV: UK/Ireland Edition (WJ-IV)	2014	Oral/Written	11 subtests assessing reading accuracy, reading comprehension, spelling, written expression and mathematics achievement	4 – 90	USA	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	Education Elephant
Word Identification and Spelling Test (WIST)	2004	Oral	Word identification, spelling and sound-symbol knowledge	7 - 18	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
York Assessment for Reading Comprehension (YARC)	2017	Oral	Reading accuracy, reading fluency, reading comprehension and reading rate	4-16	UK	Specialist training e.g. SEN qualification /Guidance Counsellors	GL Assessment

Mathematics

Please note that UK and USA published maths-assessment instruments may feature the imperial system of measurement and a different currency. Practitioners should also note that these instruments relate to those countries curriculums and may have limited diagnostic value.

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
Access Mathematical Test 2025 (AMT)	2025	Written/Digital options	Calculation, problem-solving and application of mathematical concepts.	7-16	UK	Teacher	Hachette Learning
Comprehensive Mathematical Abilities Test – Second Edition (CMAT-2)	2021	Oral/Written	Basic concepts, computation, reasoning, problem solving and mathematical applications.	8-18	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc
Drumcondra Post-Primary Maths Test (DPPT-Maths)	2015	Written	Mathematical knowledge and skills, including reasoning and problem-solving	Second Year	Irish	Teacher	ERC
Triail Mhatamaitice Dhroim Conrach d'Iar-bhunscoileanna (TMDI)	2026	Digital	Irish-Language version of the DPPT-Maths test assessing mathematical knowledge, reasoning and problem-solving	Second Year	Irish	Teacher	ERC
IDL Numeracy Screener	2025	Digital	Number knowledge, calculation and mathematical understanding.	8 - 18	UK with portions of Irish	Teacher	IDL
Progress Test in Maths (PTM)	2015	Written/Digital option	Mathematical attainment and progress in number, algebra, geometry, measures and data handling	4-15	UK	Teacher	GL Assessment
Test of Mathematical Abilities – Third Edition (TOMA-3)	2012	Oral/Written	Mathematical vocabulary, number concepts, calculation, reasoning and problem-solving skills.	8-18	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.

Aptitude, Ability and Other Tests

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
British Picture Vocabulary Scales (BPVS3)	2011	Tactile (pointing responses)	Receptive vocabulary and understanding of spoken language.	3 - 16	UK	Teacher	ETC Consult
Cognitive Abilities Test - Fourth Edition (CAT 4)	2012	Written/Digital option	Verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning abilities.	6 – 17	UK and Irish	Teacher	GL Assessment
Cognitive Assessment System – Second Edition : Rating Scale (CAS-2 RS)	2013	Written	Behaviours associated with planning, attention, simultaneous and successive processing.	4 – 18	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc
Detroit Tests of Learning Abilities – Fifth Edition (DTLA-5)	2017	Oral/Written	Acquired knowledge, verbal comprehension, nonverbal problem solving, verbal memory, nonverbal memory, and processing speed	6 – 17	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc
Diagnostic Achievement Battery – Fourth Edition (DAB-4)	2014	Oral/Written	Academic achievement across reading, writing and mathematics domains.	6 – 14	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc

Assessment Name	Year of Publication/ Revision	Response mode	Description	Age Range	Norms	Qualifications Required for Test Administration	Sourced From
Drumcondra Reasoning Test (DRT)	2016	Written/Digital option	Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Ability	Incoming First Years	Irish	Teacher	ERC
My Aptitude (formerly Cambridge Profile Aptitude Tests)	2017	Digital	Ability/aptitude battery (Verbal, Numerical, Abstract, Spatial, Spelling, Arithmetic, Working Quickly & Accurately)	14-18	Irish and UK normed	Trained administrators (i.e. Careers practitioners, guidance counsellors or psychologists)	My Future Choice
Spatial and Abstract Reasoning Test (SAR) & Triail ar Réasúnaíocht Spásúil & Theibí (TRST)	2025	Digital	Spatial and abstract reasoning abilities.	Incoming First years	Irish	Teacher	ERC
SWIFT	2025	Digital	Working memory, processing speed. Reading fluency, spelling, maths fluency.	11 – 18+	Irish and Uk	Teacher	Education Elephant
Test of Memory and Learning – Second Edition (TOMAL-2)	2007	Oral and tactile responses with manipulatives	Verbal, nonverbal and specific memory functioning.	5-19	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.
Test of Nonverbal Intelligence – Fourth Edition (TONI-4)	2010	Tactile (pointing responses)	Nonverbal reasoning and general cognitive ability without language demands	6-89	USA	Teacher	PRO-ED, Inc.