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AN ROINN Oideachais
MÄNNYSTRIE O Lear

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ábhar:

InCAS

Uimhir Chiorcláin:
2010/20

Dáta Eisiúna:

18 Lúnasa 2010

Sprioclucht:

- Príomhoidí agus Boird Ghobharnóirí i ngach bunscoil, iar-bhunscoil, iar-bhunscoil ina bhfuil roinn ullmhúcháin agus scoil speisialta dheontaschúnta;
- Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne;
- Comhairle na Scoileanna Caitliceacha faoi Chothabháil;
- Comhairle Curaclaim, Scrúdúcháin agus Measúnaithe;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta;
- Comhairle Oideachas Imeasctha Thuaisceart Éireann ; agus
- Ceardchumainn na Múinteoirí.

Achoimre ar Ábhar:

Is í feidhm an chiorcláin seo comhairle a chur ar fáil do scoileanna faoi na socruithe a bhaineann le measúnuithe Córas Measúnachta Ríomhairithe Idirghníomhach (InCAS) do dhaltaí i mbliain 4 go bliain 7 i bhfómhar 2010, agus faoi na socruithe gaolmhara maidir le torthaí na measúnuithe a thuairisciú do thuismitheoirí.

Fiosrúcháin:
Ba chóir aon fhiosrúchán faoi ábhar an chiorcláin seo a chur chuig:

Julie Craig
Foireann Measúnaithe agus Cáilíochtaí
An Roinn Oideachais
Teach Rathgael
Bóthar Balloo
BEANNCHAR
BT19 7PR

Feasacht Gobharnóirí:
Riachtanach

Stádas an Ábhair:
Comhairle

Doiciméid Ghaolmhara:
Ní bhaineann

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Suíomh gréasáin ROTÉ:
http://www.deni.gov.uk

Guthán: 028 9127 9565
Facs: 028 9127 9100

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Subject:

InCAS

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Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided primary schools, post-primary schools with preparatory departments and special schools;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta;
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education; and
- Teachers Unions.

Governor Awareness:
Essential

Summary of Contents:
This circular is to advise schools of the arrangements relating to Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) assessments for pupils in years 4 to 7 in autumn 2010, and the associated arrangements for reporting assessment outcomes to parents.

Status of Contents:
Advice

Related Documents:
Not applicable

Superseded Documents:
Circular 2009/14

Expiry Date:
July 2011

Enquiries:
Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

Julie Craig
Assessment and Qualifications Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

DENI Website:
http://www.deni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 9127 9565
Fax: 028 9127 9100

SOCRUITHE InCAS D'FHÓMHAR 2010

Réamheolas

1. Is í feidhm an chiorcláin seo comhairle a chur ar fáil do scoileanna faoi na socruithe a bhaineann le measúnuithe Córas Measúnachta Ríomhairithe Idirghníomhach (InCAS) do dhaltaí i mbliain 4 go bliain 7 i bhfómhar 2010, agus faoi na socruithe gaolmhara maidir le torthaí na measúnuithe a thuairisciú do thuismitheoirí.

2. Cuireadh na socruithe seo le chéile i ndiaidh go ndearnadh obair mhór (féach anseo thíos) ó bhí anuraidh ann le beachtas thorthaí InCAS a chinntiú do scoileanna.

Eochairphointi

3. Anseo thíos tá na heochairphointí i dtaca le socruithe InCAS de d'fhómhar 2010:

   - Déanfar a thuilleadh seiceálacha ar dhearbhú cáilíochta ag tús théarma an fhómhair le líon beag scoileanna;
   - Is féidir le daltaí measúnuithe a chomhlánú, de réir amchlár scoileanna le linn théarma an fhómhair, mar is gnách;
   - Is féidir le scoileanna na comhaid aistrithe a uaslódáil ach na measúnuithe a bheith comhlánaithe;
   - Le go mbeidh go leor ama ann leis na seiceálacha breise a dhéanamh ar dhearbhú cáilíochta, beidh na torthaí measúnaithe ar fáil lena n-íoslódáil ó 8 Deireadh Fómhair;
   - Ní bheidh ar scoileanna torthaí coibhéis aoise InCAS don Léitheoireacht agus do Mhatamaitic Ghinearálta a chur ar fáil i scríbhinn do thuismitheoirí le linn théarma an fhómhair ach i gcás scoilbhliain 2010-11 amháin;

InCAS ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUTUMN 2010

Introduction

1. The purpose of this circular is to advise schools of the arrangements relating to Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) assessments for pupils in years 4 to 7 in autumn 2010, and the associated arrangements for reporting to parents.

2. These arrangements follow extensive work (referred to below) which has been carried out since last year to ensure the accuracy of InCAS outcomes for schools.

Key Points

3. The key points regarding the InCAS arrangements for autumn 2010 are:

   - Additional quality assurance checks will take place at the start of the autumn term with a small number of schools;
   - Assessments may be completed by pupils, as timetabled by schools during the autumn term, as usual;
   - Schools may upload their transfer files on completion of the assessments;
   - To allow time for the additional quality assurance checks, assessment outcomes will be available for download from 8 October;
   - Schools are required to provide age-equivalent InCAS outcomes for Reading and General Maths to parents in writing during the autumn term for the 2010-11 school year only;

- Níl ar scoileanna torthaí na mblianta roimh 2010-11 a chur ar fáil do thuismitheoirí, ach tig leo é a dhéanamh más mian leo; moltar do scoileanna, áfach, gan aon fhaisnéis fhadama a léiriú i bhfoirm graif;
- Tá ar scoileanna cruinniú a reáchtáil do thuismitheoirí leis na torthaí a phlé faoi dheireadh théarma an fhómhair.

An Riachtanas le Measúnuithe InCAS a Dhéanamh

4. Ceapadh InCAS ar mhaithe le cuspóirí diagnóiseacha. Soláthraíonn sé measúnuithe sa Léitheoireacht agus i Matamaitic Ghinearálta chomh maith le measúnuithe roghnacha gaolmhara agus is bunchuid é de na comh-iarrachtaí is leithne atá ar bun againn le go mbeidh torthaí is fearr litearthachta agus uimhearthachta ag gach duine óg.

5. Soláthraíonn Ord (TÉ) Oideachais (Socruithe Measúnaithe) (Bonnchéim go hEochairchéim 3) 2007 (Ord 2007) do mheasúnú daltaí i mBlianta 4 go 7 le linn théarma an fhómhair, ag baint úsáid as modh ríomhbhunaithe a sonraíonn an Roinn é. Is é InCAS an modh atá sonraithe ag an Roinn le húsáid i scoileanna leis na measúnuithe seo a dhéanamh i dtéarma an fhómhair. De réir an Oird seo chomh maith caithfear torthaí na measúnuithe seo a thaifeadadh agus a thuairisciú do thuismitheoirí an dalta faoi dheireadh an téarma sin. Is féidir cóip d'Ord 2007 a fháil ar:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2007/pdf/nisr_20070045_en.pdf

- Schools are not required to provide parents with outcomes for years before 2010-11, but may choose to do so; however, schools are advised not to present any longitudinal information in graphical format;
- Schools are required to offer parents a meeting to discuss outcomes by the end of the autumn term.

Requirement to Carry Out InCAS Assessments

4. InCAS is designed to be used for diagnostic purposes. It provides assessments in Reading and General Maths and optional associated assessments and is an integral part of our wider, collective efforts to raise outcomes in literacy and numeracy for all young people.

5. The Education (Assessment Arrangements) (Foundation to Key Stage 3) Order (NI) 2007 (the 2007 Order) provides for the assessment of pupils in Years 4 to 7 during the autumn term, using a computer-based method specified by the Department. InCAS is the method which the Department specifies is to be used by schools in carrying out those autumn term assessments. The Order also requires the outcomes of these assessments to be recorded and notified to the pupil's parents by the end of that term. A copy of the 2007 Order is available at:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2007/pdf/nisr_20070045_en.pdf

An Fheidhm atá le Measúnú InCAS

6. Is uirlis measúnaithe é InCAS a ceapadh le cuidiú le scoileanna láidreachtaí daltaí, chomh maith leis na réimsí sin atá le feabhsú, a shainaithint. Ba chóir go mbeadh torthaí mheasúnuithe InCAS ina gcuidiú ag múinteoirí, mar sin, a gcuid teagaisc i rith na scoilbhliana a phleanáil le riar ar riachtanais a ndaltaí féin sa seomra ranga. Cuirfidh na measúnuithe eolas ar fáil do scoileanna chomh maith le cuidiú leo monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn gach dalta faoi leith – lena chinntiú go mbainfidh gach dalta a (h)acmhainneacht amach – agus, ar bhonn is ginearálta, le heolas a chur ar fáil ar fhéinmheastóireacht, ar phleanáil forbartha agus ar bheartú spriocanna.

7. Is é an phríomhfheidhm atá le measúnuithe InCAS cur leis an tacaíocht dhiagnóiseach d'fhoghlaim na ndaltaí – níl sé ann le comparáid a dhéanamh idir daltaí. **Ní bhaineann measúnuithe InCAS, i dtaca le cuspóir ar bith, le haistriú daltaí ó bhunscoil go hiar-bhunscoil.**

8. Aithníonn an Roinn go bhfuil réimse d'uirlisí measúnaithe ar fáil faoi láthair agus go bhfuil siad in úsáid i scoileanna, tá uirlis measúnaithe matamaitice Alta, mar shampla, ar fáil do gach scoil. Spreagfaimis scoileanna le Alta agus uirlisí measúnaithe eile a úsáid go fóill de bhreis ar InCAS chun tacú lena gcuid oibre le torthaí na ndaltaí sa litearthacht agus san uimhearthacht a fheabhsú.

Purpose of InCAS Assessment

6. InCAS is an assessment tool designed to support schools in identifying pupils' strengths and areas for improvement. The outcomes from the InCAS assessments should therefore help teachers plan their teaching during the school year to meet the needs of pupils in their classrooms. The assessments will also provide schools with useful information for monitoring individual pupil progress – to ensure every pupil is reaching his or her full potential – and, more generally, to inform self-evaluation, development planning and target-setting.

7. The primary purpose of InCAS assessments is to contribute to diagnostic support for pupils' learning – it is not to compare pupils. **InCAS assessments are not for any purpose related to the transfer of pupils from primary to post-primary school.**

8. The Department recognises that there is a range of assessment tools currently available and used by schools, e.g. the Alta maths assessment tool is available to all schools. We would encourage schools to continue to make use of Alta and other assessment tools in addition to InCAS to support their work to improve pupil outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

9. Cuirtear sonraí ar thorthaí InCAS díreach ar ais chuig na scoileanna agus ní bhailítear agus ní chomhordaítear go lárnach iad. Mar a bhaineann le gach cineál sonraí, caithfidh scoileanna riachtanais chosaint sonraí a chur san áireamh lena chinntiú go bhfuil socruithe cuí i bhfeidhm acu lena gcoinneáil in áit shlán stórais.

9. Data on InCAS outcomes is returned directly to schools and is not collected or collated centrally. As with all data, schools will need to take account of data protection requirements and to ensure that they have appropriate arrangements in place for the safe storage of data.

Gníomhartha le hUllmhú d'Fhómhar 2010

Actions to Prepare for Autumn 2010

10. Agus na hearráidí a tharla i dtorthaí InCAS anuraidh curtha i gceart, cuireadh clár fairsing oibre i bhfeidhm le beachtas na dtorthaí a chinntiú agus le muinín scoileanna a athneartú.

10. Following correction of the errors in InCAS outcomes which occurred last autumn, an extensive programme of work has been undertaken to ensure the accuracy of outcomes and to rebuild school confidence.

11. Cuireadh na gníomhartha seo a leanas san áireamh sa chlár seo:

11. This programme has included the following actions:

- Bhí CCEA agus an tIonad Measúnachta agus Modhnóireachta (CEM) in Ollscoil Durham páirteach i bpróiseas leanúnach ar sheiceálacha dearbhú cáilíochtaí agus in athbhreithnithe ar an uirlis InCAS. San áireamh anseo athbhreithníodh na gnáthaimh thástála, na próisis ghnó agus na próisis bhainistíocht riosca atá i bhfeidhm in CEM;
- Rinneadh a thuilleadh gnáthaimh dhearbhú cáilíochta do 2010. Orthu seo bhí níos mó seiceálacha neamhspleácha ar algartaim InCAS i ndiaidh trialacha a dhéanamh i scoileanna;
- Rinneadh athbhreithniú neamhspleách ar na cúinsí ba chúis leis na hearráidí.

- CCEA and the University of Durham's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) have engaged in an ongoing process of quality assurance checks and reviews of the InCAS tool. This included reviewing CEM's testing procedures, business processes and risk management processes;
- Additional quality assurance procedures have been undertaken for 2010. These included additional independent checks of the InCAS algorithms following school trials;
- An independent review about the circumstances giving rise to the errors was carried out.

12. Ar a bharr seo, chuir an tAire Oideachais Grúpa Oibre neamhspleách ar bun, a raibh príomhoidí scoileanna agus ionadaithe cheardchumann na múinteoirí agus gobharnóirí scoile páirteach ann, le measúnú a sholáthar ar an tionchar a bhí ag an dá earráid ar mhuinín scoileanna agus le moltaí a chur chun tosaigh. Chuir an Grúpa seo roinnt beart chun tosaigh, ach go háirithe le hiontaofacht sonraí agus rialú cáilíochta a fheabhsú, agus lena chinntiú go mbeadh cumarsáid is éifeachtúla ann le tuismitheoirí faoi InCAS.

12. In addition, the Minister of Education established an independent Working Group, including school principals and teacher union and school governor representatives, to provide an assessment of the impact of the two errors on school confidence and to make recommendations. This Group recommended a number of measures, in particular to improve data reliability and quality control, and to ensure more effective communication to parents about InCAS.

13. Forbraíodh plean gníomhaíochta mar fhreagairt do mholtaí an Ghrúpa Oibre. Is féidir é seo a fháil ar www.deni.gov.uk .

13. An action plan has been developed in response to the recommendations of the Working Group. This may be found at www.deni.gov.uk .

14. Ar na príomh-mholtaí a chuir an Grúpa Oibre chun tosaigh tá:

"socruithe a chur i bhfeidhm le tástáil a dhéanamh ar an dóigh a bhfuil próiseáil sonraí InCAS ag feidhmiú sula n-eiseofar na scóir anailísithe coibhéis aoise agus na scóir chaighdeánaithe i gcoitinne. Ní bheadh sé praiticiúil ná stuama é seo a dhéanamh do gach scoil mar is dócha go mbeadh orainn cur go mór leis na hagaí freagartha do na sonraí anailísithe. D'fhéadfaí é a dhéanamh, áfach, dá mbeadh rogha scoileanna sásta a gcuid sonraí a chur ar fáil go luath i dtéarma an fhómhair agus an tseiceáil agus an t-aiseolas atá riachhtanach a thabhairt."

14. A key recommendation of the Working Group was that:

"arrangements are made to test the performance of the InCAS data processing before general release of analysed age-equivalent and standardised scores. It would not be practical or sensible to do this for all schools as the response times for analysed data would probably be seriously extended. However, it could be accomplished by collaborating with a selection of volunteering schools which provide their data early in the autumn term and contribute to the necessary checking and feedback."

15. Dá réir sin, tá socruithe i bhfeidhm le líon beag scoileanna a bheidh páirteach sa bheart bhreise seo ar dhearbhú cáilíochta ag tús théarma an fhómhair. Tá na seiceálacha seo ann lena fháil amach an bhfuil na

15. Accordingly, arrangements have been made with a small number of schools to take part in this additional quality assurance measure, at the start of the autumn term. These checks are to determine that the

bogearraí ag feidhmiú mar táthar ag súil leis i gcás beo i scoil, ar a n-áirítear cásanna mar a bhfuil ranganna daltaí ag déanamh measúnaithe ag an am céanna agus mar a bhfuil ríomhairí glúine agus líonra gan sreang in úsáid. Cuirfidh sé seo leis an tástáil dhian atá déanta cheana féin ar na bogearraí ar an líonra C2k, agus déanfaidh sé tástáil fosta ar an dóigh a bhfuil an phróiseáil sonraí ag feidhmiú sula n-eiseofar na torthai chuig na scoileanna i gcoitinne, díreach mar atá á mholadh ag an Ghrúpa Oibre.

software operates as expected in a live situation in a school, including situations where classes of pupils are taking the assessment at the same time, and where laptops and a wireless network are used. This will supplement the rigorous software testing which has already taken place on the C2k network, and will test the performance of the data processing in advance of the general release of outcomes to schools, in line with the Working Group recommendations.

Athchaighdeánú

16. Gach bliain ó 2007 rinneadh seiceáil ar oiriúnacht agus fheidhmíocht na gceisteanna taobh istigh de na measúnuithe InCAS. Ba é an bhliain acadúil 2009/10 an chéad uair, áfach, a rinneadh measúnú ar na ceithre chohórt iomlána de dhaltaí anseo (Blianta 4 – 7) sna réimsí éigeantacha de Léitheoireacht agus Mhatamaitic Ghinearálta, agus rinneadh measúnú chomh maith ar líon mór da na daltaí seo i modúil eile.

17. Iarradh ar CEM, mar sin, anailís a dhéanamh ar mheasúnuithe uile InCAS lena fháil amach an bhfuil na ceisteanna agus caighdeánú iomlán na huirlise oiriúnach go fóill. I bhfianaise na hanailíse seo, rinneadh an uirlis InCAS a athchaighdeánú agus rinneadh tástáil ar eisiúint nuashonraithe na mbogearraí lena bhfeidhmíocht agus le beachtas na dtorthaí a chinntiú i gcás beo.

Restandardisation

16. The suitability and performance of questions within the InCAS assessments have been checked annually since 2007. However, the 2009/10 academic year was the first time that four full cohorts of pupils here (Years 4 – 7) had been assessed for the mandatory sections of Reading and General Maths, and a large number of these pupils had also been assessed for the other modules.

17. CEM was therefore asked to carry out an analysis of all InCAS assessments to determine if questions remained suitable and if the overall standardisation of the tool was still appropriate. In light of this analysis the InCAS tool has now been restandardised and an updated release of the software has been tested to ensure its performance and the accuracy of outcomes in a live situation.

Socruithe Measúnaithe d'Fhómhar 2010

18. Tá bogearraí nuashonraithe InCAS ar fáil do scoileanna cheana féin, agus tá comhairle tugtha do scoileanna ag CCEA agus C2k ar an dóigh le hullmhú do na measúnuithe agus ar a riar. Agus an chomhairle seo á tabhairt, cuireadh san áireamh an t-aiseolas a fuarthas ó scoileanna i ndiaidh mheasúnuithe na bliana seo caite. Tá deasc chabhrach ar fáil in CCEA ar 028 9026 1274 le ceisteanna ar úsáid agus léirmhíniú InCAS a ghlacadh, agus tá deasc chabhrach ar fáil ag C2k ar 0870 6011 666 le haghaidh ceisteanna ar oibriúchán INCAS agus ar an líonra C2k. Tá eolas breise agus ábhair thacaíochta ar fáil chomh maith ar shuíomh gréasáin an churaclaim athbhreithnithe ag: http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk.

19. Díreach mar a bhí i mblianta eile, is féidir le daltaí measúnuithe InCAS a chomhlánú, de réir chlárama na scoile i dtéarma an fhómhair, agus is féidir le scoileanna na comhaid aistrithe a uaslódáil chuig suíomh slán InCAS+ nuair a bheidh na measúnuithe comhlánaithe.

20. I mbliana, le go mbeidh am go leor ann leis an tástáil bhreise a dhéanamh ar dhearbhú cailíochta i scoileanna airithe ag tús théarma an fhómhair, mar atá molta ag an Ghrúpa Oibre (ailt 14 agus 15 thuas), **beidh torthaí InCAS ar fáil ó shuíomh slán InCAS+ ó 8 Deireadh Fómhair**. Ní bheidh torthaí ar fáil lena n-íoslódáil, mar sin, sa tréimhse suas go dtí 8 Deireadh Fómhair.

Assessment Arrangements for Autumn 2010

18. The updated InCAS software is already available to schools, and CCEA and C2k have issued advice to schools on preparing for and administering assessments. This advice takes account of feedback from schools following last year's assessments. A CCEA helpdesk facility is available on 028 9026 1274 for questions on the use and interpretation of INCAS, while a C2k helpdesk facility is available on 0870 6011 666 for queries on the operation of INCAS on the C2k network. Further information and support material are also available on the revised curriculum website at: http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk.

19. As in previous years, InCAS assessments may be completed by pupils, as timetabled by schools during the autumn term, and schools may upload their transfer files to the InCAS+ secure site on completion of assessments.

20. This year, to allow time for additional quality assurance testing in some schools at the start of the autumn term, as recommended by the Working Group (paragraphs 14 and 15 above), **InCAS outcomes will be available from the InCAS+ secure site from 8 October**. Therefore, in the period up to 8 October, outcomes will not be available to download.

21. Ní ionann InCAS agus scrúdú oifigiúil sa dóigh nach gcaithfear é a dhéanamh faoi choinníollacha teiste, m.sh. ní chaithfidh rang /bliainghrúpa iomlán an measúnú a dhéanamh ag an am céanna nó ar an lá céanna. Is féidir é a dhéanamh mar chuid de ghnáthchleachtas seomra ranga ag am ar bith le linn théarma an fhómhair agus caithfidh an scoil féin a chinntiú cad iad na socruithe is fearr a oireann dá múinteoirí agus dá daltaí.

21. InCAS is not a high-stakes assessment and it does not have to be administered in test conditions, e.g. there is no need for a whole class/year group to take the assessment at the same time or on the same day. It can be carried out as part of normal classroom practice at any point during the autumn term and it is for schools to decide the arrangements that best suit their teachers and pupils.

Torthaí InCAS á dTuairisciú chuig Tuismitheoirí

Reporting of InCAS Outcomes to Parents

22. Cuirfidh measúnuithe InCAS toradh coibhéis aoise ar fáil sa Léitheoireacht agus toradh coibhéis aoise ar fáil sa Mhata Ghinearálta Faoi Ord 2007 ní mór do scoileanna na torthaí seo a thuairisciú i scríbhinn do thuismitheoirí agus cruinniú a reáchtáil do thuismitheoirí leis na torthaí a phlé faoi dheireadh théarma an fhómhair.

22. The InCAS assessments will generate an age-equivalent outcome in Reading and an age-equivalent outcome in General Maths[1]. Under the 2007 Order schools are required to report these outcomes to parents in writing and to offer parents a meeting to discuss outcomes by the end of the autumn term.

23. Taobh istigh den chomhthéacs seo, rinne an Roinn athbhreithniú ar na riachtanais tuairiscithe don scoilbhliain 2010/11, go háirithe i bhfianaise athchaighdeánú uirlis InCAS (ailt 16 agus 17 thuas). Fágann an t-athchaighdeánú seo, cé go bhfuil sé fóirsteanach go fóill comparáid a dhéanamh idir scór coibhéis aoise dalta agus a (h)aois chroineolaíoch, má dhéantar comparáid idir torthaí 2010 agus torthaí blianta roimhe sin, nó má dhéantar anailís ar dhul chun cinn ó bhliain go bliain, ní chaithfidh go bhfuil comparáid á déanamh idir dhá rud atá cosúil lena chéile.

23. Within this context the Department has reviewed the reporting requirements for the 2010/11 school year, particularly in light of the restandardisation of the InCAS tool (paragraphs 16 and 17 above). This restandardisation means that, whilst it is still appropriate to compare a pupil's age-equivalent score with their chronological age, any comparison between 2010 outcomes and those of previous years, or analysis of progression from year to year, is not necessarily comparing like-with-like.

[1] Age-equivalent outcomes are also available for other assessment modules.

24. Ina fhianaise seo, **caithfidh** scoileanna, sa scoilbhliain 2010/11, torthaí coibhéis aoise InCAS sa Léitheoireacht agus i Matamaitic Ghinearálta a chur ar fáil i scríbhinn do thuismitheoirí le linn théarma an fhómhair don scoilbhliain 2010/11 amháin. Is féidir an t-eolas seo a chur ar fáil i bhfoirm thábla nó i bhfoirm ghraif, ag brath ar cé acu láithreoireacht a shíleann an scoil is fearr a mbeidh fáil ag tuismitheoirí uirthi.

24. In light of this schools are **required**, in the 2010/11 school year, to provide age-equivalent InCAS outcomes for Reading and General Maths to parents in writing during the autumn term for the 2010/11 school year only. This information may be presented in either tabular or graphical format, depending on which presentation schools consider is most accessible to parents.

25. **Ní chaithfidh** scoileanna torthaí coibhéis aoise InCAS a bpáiste sa Léitheoireacht agus i Matamaitic Ghinearálta a chur ar fáil do thuismitheoirí do bhlianta eile roimh 2010/11 ach tig leo é a dhéanamh más mian leo. Sa chás seo, áfach – nó i gcás tuismitheoirí a bhfuil na torthaí seo acu cheana féin agus ar mhaith leo iad a chur i gcomparáid le torthaí 2010/11 – beidh ar an scoil an tionchar a bheadh ag athchaighdeánú a mhíniú dóibh. Moltar do scoileanna gan aon fhaisnéis fadama a chur i láthair i bhfoirm ghraif.

25. Schools are **not required** to provide parents with their child's age-equivalent InCAS outcomes for Reading and General Maths for years before 2010/11 but may choose to do so. However, in this instance – or should parents who already have these outcomes seek to compare these with 2010/11 outcomes – schools would need to explain the impact of the restandardisation. Schools are advised not to present any longitudinal information in graphical format.

26. Fágann cruinniú na dtuismitheoirí go mbíonn deis mhaith ag scoileanna torthaí InCAS a chur i gcomhthéacs oideachasúil lena mhíniú do thuismitheoirí cad iad láidreachtaí a bpáiste agus cad iad na réimsí atá le feabhsú, más ann dóibh, chomh maith leis na gníomhartha atá beartaithe ag an scoil le dul ina ngleic. Fágann an cruinniú chomh maith go mbíonn deis ag tuismitheoirí an dóigh ar féidir leo cuidiú le foghlaim a bpáiste a thuiscint. Ba chóir do scoileanna é a chinntiú go mbíonn a fhios ag tuismitheoirí **gurb é an phríomhfheidhm atá le measúnuithe InCAS cur leis an tacaíocht dhiagnóiseach d'fhoghlaim daltaí – níl siad ann le comparáid a dhéanamh idir daltaí**.

26. The parents' meeting provides a useful opportunity for schools to set the InCAS outcomes in an educational context as a basis for explaining to parents their child's strengths and any areas for improvement, as well as the actions the school intends to take to address these. The meeting also provides an opportunity to help parents understand what they can do to support their child's learning. Schools should ensure that parents are aware that **the primary purpose of InCAS assessments is to contribute to diagnostic support for pupils' learning – it is not to compare pupils**.

Díolúintí

27. Riarann Ord 2007 ar na díolúintí seo a leanas ón riachtanas measúnuithe InCAS a dhéanamh:

(a) dalta ag a bhfuil ráiteas riachtanais speisialta oideachais a rinneadh measúnú air nó uirthi mar dhuine ag a bhfuil deacrachtaí troma foghlama, ní chaithfidh an dalta sin measúnuithe InCAS a dhéanamh;

(b) nuair atá díolúine ag dalta ó aon cheann de na riachtanais ó Ailt 5 go 9 d'Ord Oideachais (Tuaisceart Éireann) 2006 – baineann na hAilt seo leis an churaclam, le scileanna agus le measúnú – de réir Alt 14 (Obair forbartha agus turgnaimh), 15 (Díolúintí de réir rialúchán), 16 (Daltaí ag a bhfuil ráiteas de riachtanais speisialta oideachais) nó 17 (Díolúintí sealadacha do dhaltaí faoi leith) den Ord sin, ní bhaineann forálacha measúnaithe Ord 2007 i dtaca leis na riachtanais a bhfuil díolúine ag an dalta uathu agus ní dhéanfar measúnú ar an dalta ach i dtaca leis na codanna sin den churaclam nach bhfuil díolúine ag an dalta uathu. Tá cóip d'Ord Oideachais 2006 ar fáil ar http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20061915.htm; agus

Exemptions

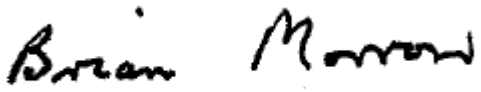
27. The 2007 Order provides for the following exemptions from the requirement to undertake InCAS assessments:

(a) a pupil with a statement of special educational needs who has been assessed as having severe learning difficulties does not have to undertake InCAS assessments;

(b) where a pupil has been exempted from any of the requirements of Articles 5 to 9 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 – these Articles relate to the curriculum, skills and assessment – by Article 14 (Development work and experiments), 15 (Exceptions by regulations), 16 (Pupils with statements of special educational needs) or 17 (Temporary exemptions for individual pupils) of that Order, the assessment provisions of the 2007 Order do not apply in relation to the requirements from which the pupil is exempt and the pupil shall be assessed only in relation to those parts of the curriculum from which he or she is not exempt. A copy of the 2006 Education Order is available at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20061915.htm; and

(c) ní chaithfidh bunscoil nó aonad Gaelscolaíochta nua measúnuithe InCAS a dhéanamh sa scoilbhliain a aithnítear mar scoil dheontaschúnta í.

(c) a new Irish-medium primary school or unit does not have to carry out the InCAS assessments in the school year in which it first becomes grant-aided.



BRIAN MORROW

Foireann Measúnaithe agus Cáilíochtaí

Assessment and Qualifications Team