

Statement from PPTC in relation to the 2022-23 Entrance Assessment

Background

Prior to the 2021-22 Entrance Assessment, PPTC engaged with parents, primary school principals, its own members, its test provider GL Assessment and other stakeholders to help shape and finalise plans for that Assessment.

Parents and primary school principals were very strongly of the view that the Entrance Assessment should:

- be held after the Halloween break and before Christmas
- include a contingency plan – in the event that the Assessment could not take place on the planned date;
- be based on English and Mathematics as in all previous years;
- include mitigations to take account of the disruption to formal schooling experienced by pupils who will sit the Assessment.

Those discussions, coupled with an evaluation of the 2021-22 Entrance Assessment and the fact that pupils who will sit the 2022-23 Entrance Assessment have also had their formal education disrupted has led PPTC to make a number of Key Decisions, in relation to the 2022-23 Entrance Assessment:

Key Decisions in relation to the 2022-23 Entrance Assessment

- The Entrance Assessment will be held on Saturday 12th November 2022.
- In the event that it is not possible to hold the Assessment on 12th November, a contingency date of 10th December 2022 will be used.
- The Assessment will be based on English and Mathematics with Gaeilge versions available as in all past years.
- Both the English and the Mathematics papers will be significantly modified, in the same ways as they were for 2021-22, to take account of the disruption to formal education experienced by pupils and the desire of parents and teachers that the Assessment be held in November rather than later in the school year.
- To ensure that all pupils have the same experience, the Entrance Assessment will be held in PPTC Centres, with all appropriate safeguards in place.
- The registration period for the Entrance Assessment will open on Wednesday 4th May 2022 and run until Friday 23rd September 2022 (2.00pm).
- Specification guides will be available in the week beginning 14th March 2022. For English these will set out specific steps that have been taken to reduce the overall demand of the Assessment - for example, by reducing the number of comprehension passages from 3 to 2. For Mathematics the specification will show that the overall demand of the Assessment has also been reduced – for example, by limiting the topic areas which will be assessed and the content within some of these topic areas.
- A full practice English paper and a full practice Mathematics paper (+ Gaeilge versions) will be available, at no cost, from Wednesday 4th May 2022.