



Primary Professional Development Service

English as an Additional Language

Seminar for principals
Session two

Aim of session two

- to explore assessment and the application process for EAL support



Role of the principal - assessment

- standardised testing
- psychological assessments
- Primary School Assessment Kit



Role of the principal – assessment

Possible exemptions from standardised testing

- Education Act – 1998
- **Circular 0138_2006**

‘Pupils may be excluded from the test if in the view of the school principal they have a learning or physical disability which would prevent them from attempting the test, or in the case of newcomer pupils, where their level of English is such that attempting such a test would be inappropriate.’



Role of the principal – assessment

Psychological assessments

- continuum of support guidelines
 - Classroom Support
 - School Support
 - School Support Plus
- exceptional circumstances
- interpreters are an option



Role of the principal – assessment

Pre-referral information

- time that child has spent in education here
- extent of child's formal education to date
- factors that may affect adjustment/receptivity to learning
 - Cultural differences in educational practices
 - Trauma and readjustment
- languages spoken at home – oral/written
- parental involvement in education



Role of the principal – assessment

Psychological assessments

What are the challenges to an EAL psychological assessment?

- language
- translation
- possible cultural bias of tests
- norm sample may not include children with EAL
- limited availability of tests in minority languages



Role of the principal – assessment

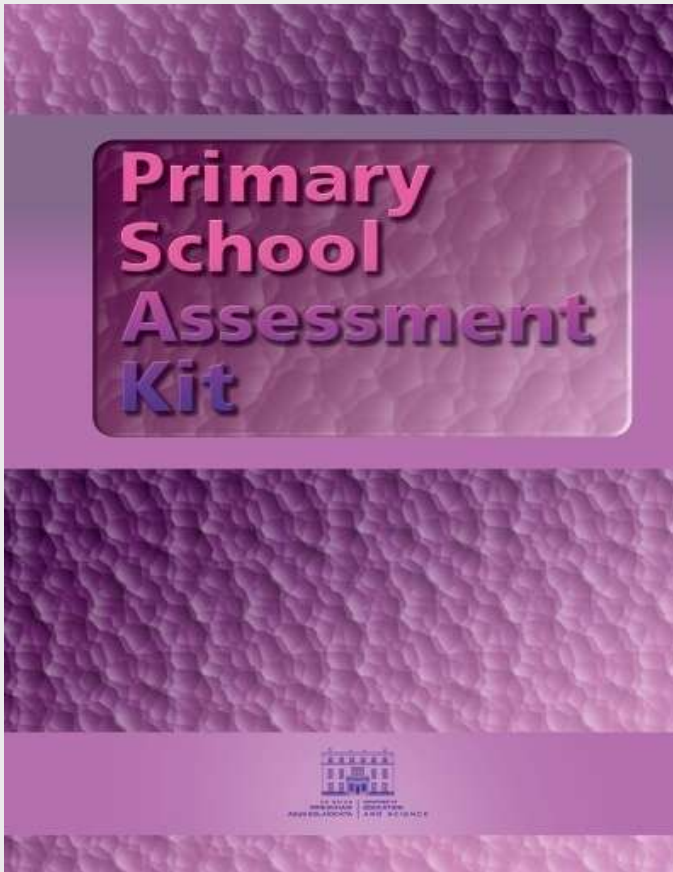
Primary School Assessment Kit

- [A principal's perspective](#)



Role of the principal – assessment

Primary School Assessment Kit



A tool to assess language proficiency

3 sets of tests:

- Set 1 (Placement)
- Set 2
- Set 3

[Tips for using the PSAK](#)



Role of the principal – assessment

Primary School Assessment Kit

- one of many tools for assessment
- should be used for AfL and AoL
- contributes to pupil profile
- can assist in smooth transition between schools



Role of the principal – record keeping

Circular 0015_2009

‘All documentation in relation to the administration of tests must be retained by the school for audit/inspection purposes.’



Role of the principal – record keeping

Primary School Assessment Kit

‘An individual file for each pupil should be maintained by the Language Support Teacher to include all assessments, scoring sheets and pupil assessment profiles. Samples of pupils’ written work should also be maintained on the files and dated accordingly.’



Role of the principal – record keeping samples

- English language portfolio
- individual file
- e-portfolios
- use of ICT



Circular 0015_2009

1 post – 14 to 30 pupils
2 posts – 31 to 90 pupils

- Pupils with less than two years support counted on a **1 for 1 basis**

3 posts – 91 to 120
pupils
4 posts – 121 and over

- Pupils counted on a **1 for 1 basis** if less than one year support has been had
- Pupils counted on a **2 for 1 basis** if between one and two years support has been had

For all posts

- If the Department is satisfied that EAL support is required for an additional year beyond the two year period then such pupils will be counted on a **3 for 1 basis**
- Application for additional support beyond two years must be accompanied by PSAK results



Role of the principal - applying for support

Circular 0015_2009

- Section 5
- Section 6
- Section 8
- Complete a sample application form in pairs



Case studies

- Discuss the case study
- Complete feedback sheet
- Provide feedback



FAQs

- Can newcomers be exempt from learning Irish?
- Can a child be supported by the language support teacher and the learning support teacher?
- Do I need consent for withdrawing children for language support?
- Can Irish children be withdrawn for socialisation and language purposes?

