

NAPLAN: 2018 information for parents and carers

What is NAPLAN

Each year since 2008, Australia-wide National Assessment Program Literacy And Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing has been conducted for students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. The intention of NAPLAN is to provide a common measurement and reporting instrument for all Australian students and schools. NAPLAN helps parents, carers and educators to see if children are meeting important numeracy and literacy standards and it supports school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor their students' progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.

What is NAPLAN Online?

NAPLAN Online replaces the paper-based NAPLAN tests with computer-based assessments. In most of the tests, students can go back and change answers. Students can also check their progress at any time during the test. Students will still be able to do working out on paper, and Year 3 students will still complete their written assessment piece by hand this year. While the written NAPLAN test was held over three days, students completing NAPLAN Online will have the same number of tests but these will be scheduled over 9 days (called a testing window). You can also expect to receive your child's results within 3-4 weeks of the test.

Why is my school doing NAPLAN Online?

Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that NAPLAN testing will move from paper-based tests to computer-based assessments over a two to three-year period.

In order to prepare for a nationwide move to NAPLAN Online, a representative number of state, independent and Catholic schools in Queensland have been selected to use online testing in 2018. Brisbane Catholic Education has spent the past 12 months preparing our 18 schools, students and teachers to move to NAPLAN Online. In most cases it will be your child's normal classroom teacher who will take on the role of Test Administrator. All Test Administrators will have received extra training to ensure the testing runs smoothly.

Will my child be ready to do NAPLAN Online?

NAPLAN Online is focused on assessing the same skills as the paper based tests – skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The test content is also aligned to the Australian Curriculum which is taught in all Brisbane Catholic Education schools.

Our students will complete NAPLAN Online using the devices they use every day in class. The ICT skills they will use to complete the online test are the same ICT skills they are using across a number of their subjects.

We are committed to ensuring our students are ready for NAPLAN Online. Our school technical staff are well prepared and our teachers have received extra training and support. Our students will also get to experience NAPLAN Online for themselves when they sit a practice test in March to May 2018 (marks will not be recorded). Based on Brisbane Catholic Education NAPLAN pilots and School Readiness Testing, we found most students enjoyed the experience and felt confident working in the NAPLAN Online environment.

What is tailored testing?

NAPLAN Online incorporates tailored testing. With tailored testing all students in each year level start with the same set of questions which can then branch into a different set of questions based on their responses. This means that students will be directed to questions that may be easier or more challenging depending on their responses. This test design will allow students to better demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills.

What if I have concerns for my child?

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's ability to complete NAPLAN Online, please speak to your teacher as early as possible. In many ways, NAPLAN Online is better able to accommodate students of all abilities and special considerations may be available to students with a disability. Your child's teacher is happy to work with you to look at the support that may be available to your child to ensure this is a positive experience.

Key dates

March 20 to May 4 - Practice Tests

May 15 to 25 - NAPLAN Online testing window

June 2018 - Results sent to schools