



Meánscoil Mhuire na Trócaire
Portláirge

OUR LADY OF MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL
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21/10/24

To parents/Guardians of 1st years:

The Mercy Secondary School is committed to developing and promoting the literacy skills of our students. As part of this work, we intend to screen all First Years' literacy skills on **Wednesday 23rd 8.45-1pm**. This screening will involve looking at their reading, spelling and writing. We are doing this to help us identify students' strengths and needs to plan our literacy supports within the SEN department.

The screening test we are using is called the **Post Primary Assessment & Diagnosis-English** (or PPAD-E for short). The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), working with the Educational Research Centre (ERC), recently designed this test for students in Irish schools.

The PPAD-E has five parts: reading and understanding passages, spelling, written work, reading speed, and word reading. Four of the five parts of the PPAD-E will be done in the school hall. This will take approximately one hour to complete. The final part, a short word reading task, is done individually, with a SEN teacher in the school. The test is suited to all ability levels, including students who struggle with reading.

There is no need for your child to prepare in advance. The purpose of the test is to help us know when someone may need extra help with learning, and what kind of help might be best. As we identify those students who require extra help, we will be able to tailor classroom instruction to meet those needs and give targeted interventions to those who need it. Please ensure that your child is present in school on Wednesday for this testing.

Yours sincerely

Ms Niamh Owens
SEN Co-ordinator