

## What happens to the results of the survey?

First of all, no schools or individuals taking part in PIRLS will be identified. The data from the survey will be analysed and reports will be published in December 2012. The findings will inform education policy in England and other countries and contribute to further improvements in reading education.

## What have previous PIRLS surveys taught us?

- England's 10-year-olds are able readers, although there is a wide range of achievement.
- On average, girls do better than boys in all participating countries.
- Children in England report less positive attitudes to reading than children in many other countries.

*We strongly hope that schools and pupils will be willing to represent their country in 2011, to build on these findings and to help make PIRLS 2011 a success.*

### For more information, contact:

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These websites have more information about PIRLS:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/pirls>

<http://isc.bc.edu/pirls2006/index.html>



## Progress in International Reading Literacy Study



## What is PIRLS?

PIRLS is the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study. It compares the reading attainment and attitudes to reading of 9- and 10-year-old children in over 50 countries and is the only international study to provide information on the reading skills and habits of primary age children. It will take place in May and June 2011 in 150 primary schools in England and involve around 4,000 year 5 pupils. The DfE is overseeing the project and has appointed the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to run the survey in England.

## How are schools chosen?

Statistics Canada is in charge of drawing the samples in each country. They ensure that our sample is representative of all schools in England and that all countries follow the sampling rules.



## What are schools asked to do?

Once a school has agreed to take part in the survey, the headteacher will be asked to nominate a contact person. NFER will provide an administrator who will liaise with the school contact and will conduct the tests in school. Our aim is to minimise the demands made on schools.

## What are children asked to do?

Each child will complete two reading tests, each taking 40 minutes. They will also complete a questionnaire.

To see examples of the reading assessment material PIRLS uses, go to

[http://timss.bc.edu/PDF/P06\\_IR\\_AppendixD.pdf](http://timss.bc.edu/PDF/P06_IR_AppendixD.pdf)

## What feedback will schools receive?

Participating schools will receive their results in the PIRLS tests which will allow them to compare their performance with the national picture. They will also receive tailored feedback collected from the background questionnaires on attitudes to school and reading.

Participating schools will also receive a financial incentive on signing up for PIRLS 2011 in England and a reward on successful completion of the required test booklets and questionnaires.

## Who else completes questionnaires?

The headteacher and class teacher will receive questionnaires. These will each take about 30 minutes to complete. These questionnaires provide background information to allow research questions to be examined into what makes successful readers.



## Why should my school take part?

PIRLS is an independent and high-profile study which offers important insights into the teaching and learning of reading. It is recognised and used by governments and education professionals around the world. PIRLS was first conducted in 2001 and the findings from 2001 and 2006 surveys have informed policy in England. Participation in the 2011 survey will enable trends to be measured over a 10 year period. Feedback from the results will help determine future policy development and support for schools and pupils. In being part of the study, your school will have an important role in ensuring continuing support for high standards of literacy.

We need enough schools to be involved to meet the high quality standards of the study, otherwise results for England will not be reliable enough to be of any use to policy makers and practitioners and England will not be included in the international report to be published in 2012.