

Appendix 1 Sampling

The samples for England met the stringent sampling criteria for TIMSS 2007 and were an improvement on participation in 2003.

A limited number of exclusions (up to five per cent of the target population) are allowed, where it is deemed inappropriate for pupils to participate. In England, it was expected that special schools would be excluded as might some pupils with special educational needs. Very small schools (those with only a handful of pupils of the target age) were also excluded, in line with TIMSS rules. Exclusions at both grades, at both school level and pupil level, were well within the five per cent target (at 2.1 per cent and 2.3 per cent for year 5 and year 9 respectively). These were among the lowest levels of exclusions internationally (see Appendix A of the international report for more information).

In the case of grade 4 (year 5) in England, the sampling targets were met fully, with the target number of original sample schools taking part and an acceptable number of matched replacement schools. In the case of grade 8 (year 9), minimum targets were exceeded: well above the minimum number of original sample schools took part, topped up by an acceptable number of matched replacement schools.

The sample numbers are outlined in Exhibits A1.1 and A1.2.

Exhibit A1.1 The samples of schools

Schools	Number of schools in original sample	Number of eligible schools in original sample	Number of schools in original sample that participated	Number of replacement schools that participated	Total number of schools that participated
Grade 4	160	159	131	12	143
Grade 8	160	160	126	11	137

Exhibit A1.2 The samples of pupils

Pupils	Within school participation rate	Number of sampled pupils	Number of eligible pupils	Number of pupils absent	Number of pupils assessed
Grade 4	93 %	4784	4623	307	4316
Grade 8	88 %	4768	4600	575	4025