



# Holy Cross College, Ryde

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Wednesday, August 16, 2017

## Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN Online Readiness Test

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of Year 7 and 9,

It is the vision of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) that in the near future, NAPLAN will be conducted as an online test. The online test will ensure better assessment of student ability, greater accuracy and quicker delivery of results.

In preparation for the impending transition to the online test, all Year 7 and 9 students will sit the NAPLAN Online Readiness Test conducted by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) on **Friday, 25 August 2017 (Week 6, Term 3) during Period 1-2 for Year 9 and Period 3-4 for Year 7**. Regular timetabled classes will run for students when testing is not being completed.

It is important to note that these tests are not designed to retest students' literacy and numeracy skills and therefore no preparation is required. They are merely to assess the reliability of the online test within the school environment so that issues can be identified and addressed prior to the test being officially moved from paper to electronic.

At this stage, Chromebooks are not a supported device for the testing to be completed on, meaning that Year 7 students will need to utilise the laptops of Year 9 students, to that end it is important that Year 9 laptops are in full working order on the day of the testing, any issues need to be raised with the ICT Department as soon as possible.

There are a few technical points that need to be noted:

- As a cohort, Year 9 students will be addressed early next week and stepped through instructions to ensure their laptop is ready for the testing day. Essentially, we will be ensuring that students have the 'Guest' account active for Year 7 students to use and will be installing the locked down browser software that the test will run on.
- All students in Year 7 and 9 need to ensure that they have access to their CEnet accounts. If your password has expired or you do not know your password, please visit the ICT Helpdesk to have this rectified.
- For Year 9 students, you need to ensure that your laptop is fully charged on the day of the testing. It is recommended that you bring your charger to school on this day in case you need to charge during Period 3 and 4. If you do bring your charger, please ensure it is clearly labelled with your name.
- Every Year 7 and 9 student will be required to have a pair of earphones in order to complete the test.

The privacy notice for the NAPLAN Online Readiness Test as well as a fact sheet supplied by NESA have been provided with this letter for your perusal.

If you have any questions relating to the online readiness testing, please contact your son's Year Coordinator in the first instance. For any technical matters, please contact Jake Ward via email on [jake.ward@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jake.ward@syd.catholic.edu.au).

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jake Ward  
ICT HELPDESK MANAGER

Mr Michael Croucher  
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

## **Privacy Notice for Parents and Carers NAPLAN Online 2017 School Readiness Testing**

This note is to inform you that some personal information about students and parents which has already been obtained this year is being used again as schools prepare for NAPLAN online.

This personal information will be used by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), which is the NAPLAN Test Administration Authority responsible for New South Wales.

NESA is responsible for collecting information to be used during the testing that schools are about to undertake to check their readiness for NAPLAN Online. This 'readiness testing' includes the management of student registration, test administration and reporting of results to schools.

The information NESA uses will include school name, year level, student name, date of birth and gender. NESA discloses this information to Education Services Australia Ltd (ESA), a national, not-for-profit company owned by Australia's state and territory education ministers. ESA is engaged by the Australian Government to operate the secure online platform used for NAPLAN Online.

NESA will not disclose to ESA any information about students who are not undertaking the readiness testing for NAPLAN Online.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), which conducts NAPLAN testing, will not access the information provided for the readiness testing.

The personal information provided by each school may be used to:

- conduct NAPLAN Online readiness testing
- provide reports relating to NAPLAN Online readiness testing
- conduct research, and compile and analyse statistics.

The information will not be disclosed other than for the purposes outlined above, unless authorised or required by law.

### **More information**

- If you have concerns about privacy issues relating to NAPLAN Online, please contact your school.
- Further details about how NESA complies with NSW privacy laws, including a right to access and request amendment to your personal information, are available [here](#).
- Information about how ESA handles information for the purpose of NAPLAN Online is available [here](#).
- Information about how NSW Catholic schools comply with privacy laws is available [here](#).

# Fact sheet for parents and carers

**The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from a pen and paper assessment to an online assessment.**

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## What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

### Results will be faster and more precise

- Your child's individual results will be returned to you within just a few weeks of the NAPLAN testing.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools, teachers and parents.
- Improved precision and timing of results will help teachers to tailor their teaching more specifically to address students' learning needs.

### Tailored tests will provide better assessment

- The online format allows for 'tailored testing', where the test adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.
- 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 to the first set of questions.
- 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.
- Students find online assessment is more engaging\*, which means they are encouraged to persist longer and try harder.

\* Research by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

## NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

**NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017.**

The school readiness test is a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

## For more information

Parents, students and schools interested in familiarising themselves with the NAPLAN Online format can access the NAPLAN Online demonstration site that includes sample tests for each NAPLAN year. Use the following link:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

Further information about NAPLAN Online is available on the national ACARA website:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online>

Contact your school principal or visit the ACARA NAP website for more detailed information:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/online-assessment.html>



## Frequently asked questions

### **Which students will participate in the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?**

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate.

### **How should I prepare my child for the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?**

Your child will not need any academic preparation for the school readiness test. This is not a test of their literacy and numeracy skills, but an opportunity for them to experience the online test format and for their school to assess its online testing capability.

### **How long is the school readiness test?**

The school readiness test is expected to include two assessments: a writing assessment\* and a combined numeracy/literacy assessment. The duration of each assessment will be approximately 40 minutes.

*\* Year 3 students will only be expected to complete the combined numeracy/literacy assessment.*

### **When will my school participate in the readiness test?**

One week within the test period in August and September will be identified for each school to conduct readiness testing.

### **How will students be prevented from using the internet or spellcheckers when completing the test?**

The NAPLAN Online assessment platform will have state-of-the-art security protections. The assessment is delivered inside a locked-down browser. This ensures students cannot access the internet or spellcheckers while completing the test.

### **Will schools and parents be provided with information on the results of the readiness test?**

There will be feedback to schools about the technical information gained from the readiness testing. There will be no reporting of student test results from the readiness test.