

PIRLS 2021

Ireland: Results

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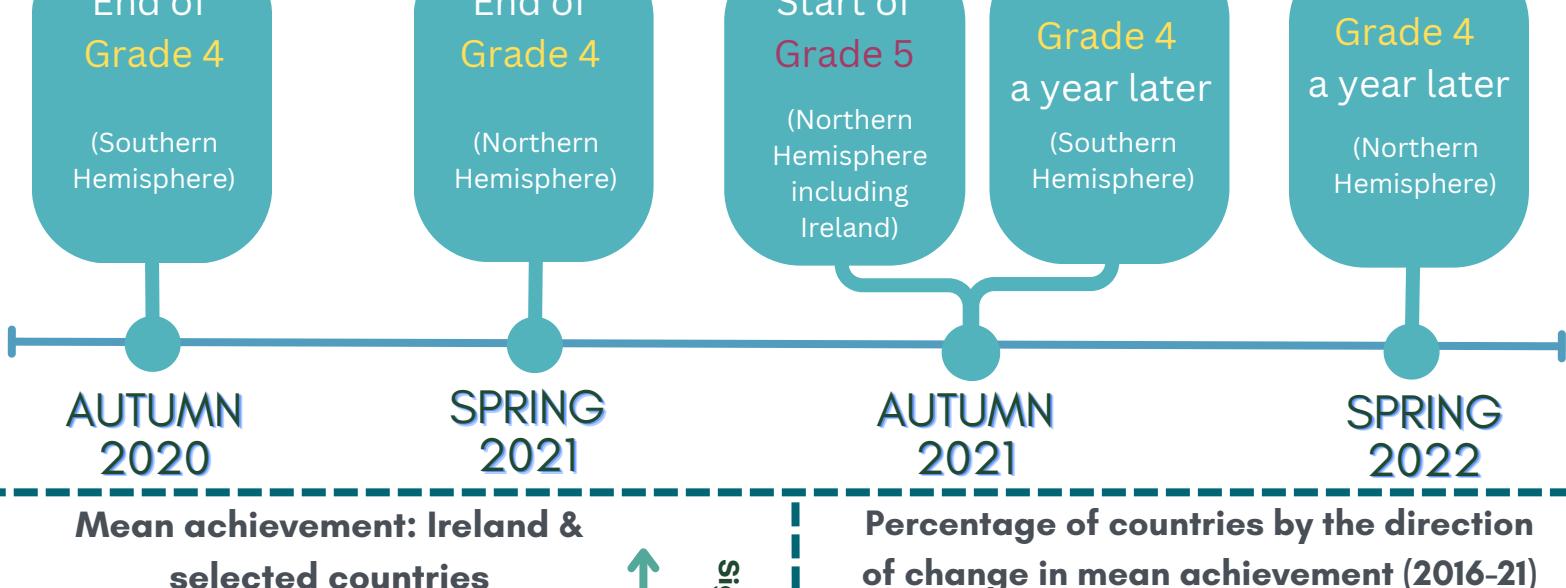
The *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study* assesses the reading of pupils around the world.

End of Grade 4

In Ireland, testing was delayed to autumn 2021 due to COVID-19. Therefore, pupils in Ireland (and 13 other countries) tested at the **start of 5th Grade**, while the remaining (43) PIRLS countries tested at the **end of 4th Grade**.

Start of Grade 5

PIRLS 2021 testing timeline



Mean achievement: Ireland & selected countries

Singapore (587)

Ireland (577)

Hong Kong (573)

Northern Ireland (566)

England (558) Croatia (557)

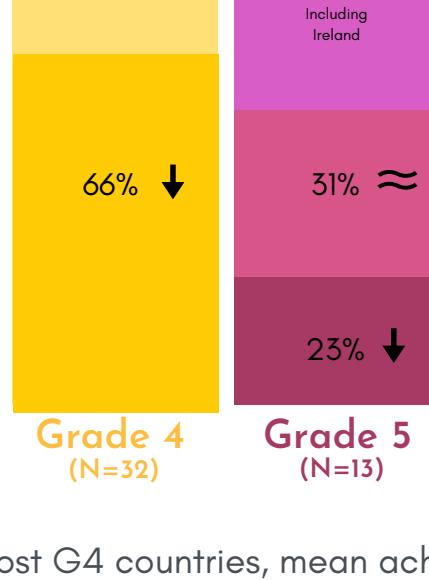
Lithuania (552) Finland (549)

Poland (549) Australia (540)

New Zealand (521)

↑ significantly higher
No significant difference from Ireland
↓ significantly lower

Percentage of countries by the direction of change in mean achievement (2016-21)



↑ Significant Increase From 2016
≈ No Significant Change From 2016
↓ Significant Decrease From 2016

Most countries, excepting Singapore and Hong Kong, achieved significantly lower mean scores than Ireland. However, **caution** is needed when comparing Ireland's results with those of G4 countries.

In most G4 countries, mean achievement declined relative to 2016. This was not the case among G5 countries, which suggests that, internationally, there was some advantage associated with G5 testing.

Benchmarks in Ireland

Advanced (625 Points)

27%

High (550 Points)

67%

Intermediate (475 Points)

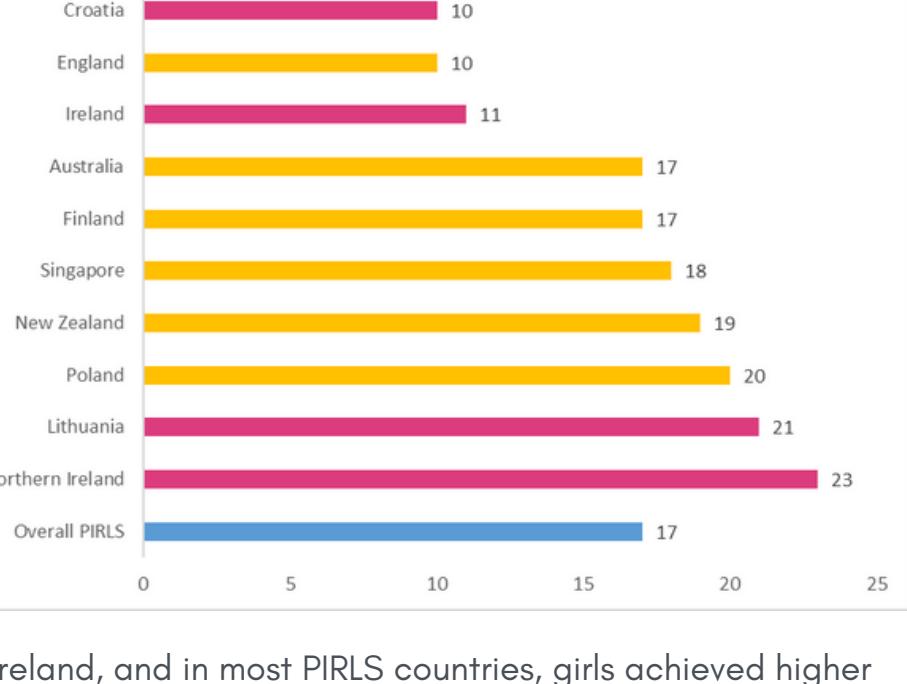
91%

Low (400 Points)

98%

While most pupils in Ireland reached the Low and Intermediate Benchmarks, substantial proportions also reached the High and Advanced Benchmarks, demonstrating sophisticated critical reading skills.

Mean advantage of girls over boys



In Ireland, and in most PIRLS countries, girls achieved higher reading scores than boys, on average. Among selected reference countries, Ireland has one of the smaller gender gaps (11 points).