

Tuesday 3rd March, 2020

NAPLAN Online – Year 3 & Year 5 Students

Shelley PS students will be taking part in NAPLAN online again in 2020. This means a shift away from the old paper based tests to computer based assessments. Our Year 3 and Year 5 students will be taking part in NAPLAN online between 12th to 22nd May, 2020.

Whilst some parents may have concerns about the changes, it is important that we keep a good perspective about these assessments. Our students are well prepared and supported in the lead up to the assessment period and we want to ensure that they do not become unnecessarily stressed or worried. Parents play a big role in helping with this: if your child knows you are worried about it – they will worry too! With that in mind, we wanted to provide some information for Year 3 and Year 5 parents as soon as possible. We will send you more information closer to the date. If you have any further questions, please speak to Mrs Williams or Ms Campion.

Jo-Ann Campion

Principal

Leanita Williams

Deputy Principal

The following information is from ACARAs NAP website www.nap.edu.au and provides some important messages about NAPLAN online.

In May of every year, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). NAPLAN, which is a part of the National Assessment Program (NAP), is how governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether young Australians are reaching important educational goals. Moving NAPLAN online brings many new opportunities for students and teachers that are limited or not possible with paper-based tests.

The benefits of online assessments

Some of the main benefits of students taking part in NAPLAN Online include:

- **Better assessment – and more precise results.** NAPLAN Online uses a tailored test or adaptive design, where the test automatically adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match the student achievement level, allowing the student to demonstrate their knowledge. This provides teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on students' performance on the tests. Tailored testing also provides an opportunity to broaden the scope of the assessments.
- **Faster turnaround of results.** Delivery of assessments online significantly reduces the time it takes to provide feedback to schools, students and parents, so teachers can respond more quickly to learning needs.
- **More engaging.** ACARA research into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

As technology develops, ACARA aims to further refine the delivery of the tests to best use the available technology to provide increasingly sophisticated assessments and valuable feedback to teachers, parents and education authorities.

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NAPLAN Online: key messages

- NAPLAN helps parents, carers and educators to see if children are meeting important numeracy and literacy standards. It is used to support school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor their students' progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.
- NAPLAN provides parents and carers with an individual report, showing their child's results and a national comparison of their child's performance against other Australian students in their year level.
- NAPLAN Online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information.
- NAPLAN Online will use 'tailored testing', which gives students questions better suited to their ability, resulting in better assessment and more precise results.
- The precision and improved timing of the results will help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.
- An online national assessment platform has been developed by Education Services Australia with funds from the Australian Government.
- Significant planning, development, research and trialling have been ongoing since 2012 to support the move to NAPLAN Online.
- State/territory education authorities will determine the timing of their move to NAPLAN Online and lead implementation for their state/territory.

Some frequently asked questions: (check the website for more FAQs)

How secure will the online assessment platform be?

The NAPLAN Online assessment platform (under Education Services Australia's direction) has state-of-the-art security protections. The online platform is designed and has been extensively tested to be compliant with government and industry standards for security, interoperability, privacy and accessibility.

Will students be completing the same test?

NAPLAN questions have always assessed a wide range of difficulty. What differs from student to student in the online test is targeted questions of either higher or lower complexity, depending on the student's performance. These targeted questions are designed to provide more focused, detailed results that can be used to target teaching.

How can I best prepare my child to complete NAPLAN in an online setting?

Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs is a part of students everyday learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum.

You can help your child become familiar with NAPLAN Online by accessing the public demonstration site on the NAP website:

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

The demonstration site includes useful resources for schools to help students become familiar with the online test experience.

How will spelling be assessed online if students have access to spell-check?

Spelling is assessed as a part of NAPLAN Online. A general requirement of NAPLAN Online is the student's device must be secured (using a locked-down browser) so they cannot access unauthorised websites, applications and spell-checking features.

Will students with limited keyboard skills be disadvantaged in the writing test?

The writing test is not about handwriting skills and NAPLAN Online is not about keyboarding skills. There are variations in how fast and well a student can type, just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand.

ACARA research shows that online writing is similar to handwriting in terms of the quality of writing produced by students at each year level. It also shows that students generally appreciate the use of online features such as editing tools (noting that online features such as grammar and spell-check are disabled during NAPLAN testing).

Students do not have to be able to touch type to successfully complete the test.

from <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment>