**ISA Results (October 2013): A Guide for ESF Parents**

The International Schools’ Assessment (ISA) is an annual assessment programme that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing. Over 33,000 students in 129 schools worldwide took the assessment in October 2013. ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and is designed and developed in Australia by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The ISA results provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year so they can be used to track changes over time at individual and school level.

Year 4 and 6 students in all ESF schools took the full ISA suite (Mathematical Literacy, Reading Literacy and Writing) in October 2013. Some schools also opted to enter students in Year 5. ESF Year 4 students took the ISA Grade 3 assessment and Year 6 students took the ISA Grade 5 assessment. The assessment papers are marked externally and the results reported back to schools.

Each student is given an ISA scale score and level for Mathematical Literacy, Reading Literacy, Narrative Writing and Expository Writing. The scores on any single scale are comparable regardless of which level of assessment is taken. For example, a score of 325 on the Year 4 Mathematical Literacy assessment indicates the same level of proficiency as a score of 325 on the Year 6 Mathematical Literacy assessment. However, the ISA scale scores are not comparable across subjects. For example, a score of 325 for Mathematical Literacy does not necessarily indicate the same level of proficiency as a score of 325 for Reading Literacy.

The table below can be used to help gauge where your child stands relative to the mean score for ESF students.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Year 4** | **Year 5** | **Year 6** |
| Mean ISA score for ESF students | Mean ISA score for ESF students | Mean ISA score for ESF students |
| Mathematical Literacy | 301 | 378 | 444 |
| Reading Literacy | 279 | 332 | 382 |
| Narrative Writing | 382 | 418 | 477 |
| Expository Writing | 400 | 434 | 489 |

*Note: the standard deviation for each assessment is roughly between 80-90 for Mathematical Literacy and Reading and between 50-60 for Narrative and Expository Writing.*

Please note that the ISA assessment is a standalone assessment that gives a snapshot of your child’s learning on a given day and, as such, overall judgment about your child’s learning needs to be made in conjunction with other school-based assessments and your child’s class-based work. There is a degree of measurement error around each result; the further away from the average performance at the year level the greater the likely measurement error.