

Measures: Measuring – Suggestions for the learning environment

IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- Engage in a measurement hunt around the classroom e.g., *find items longer/shorter than a lollipop stick/10cm, heavier/lighter than your schoolbag/2kg.* Introduce two criteria, e.g., *find an item that is more than 20 centimetres long and more than 100 grammes in weight.*
- Create a measures display in the classroom. Include benchmarks of various measures, e.g., 1m, 1kg, 1l, 1 square metre could be displayed as well as an estimation station e.g., “If Container A holds 50 cubes, how many do you think are in Container B?”
- Mystery boxes: Using two large boxes, fill one with items such as books to make it heavier. Encourage pupils not to lift but to push and pull the boxes to establish which one is lighter/heavier.
- Estimate and measure the length, width, depth and weight of parcels in order to calculate postage posts. The An Post website could be used to calculate the correct costs of each parcel: <https://www.anpost.com/Post-Parcels/Sending/Sending-Guide>.
- Explore various measurable attributes (e.g., length, width, capacity, surface area, weight) of pupils’ lunchboxes, cardboard boxes, etc. Ask questions that challenge children’s thinking about measures, e.g., *is the lunchbox with the largest capacity always the best option to hold my lunch? What box or boxes should I use to pack up and safely transport all of our maths textbooks?*
- Design a bedroom makeover drawing the blueprint of the area. Use digital technology to find the measurements of bedroom furniture to fit into the bedroom.
- Use geoboards to explore the perimeter of shapes created with elastic bands.
- Use square centimetre paper for pupils to draw and record the area of their name in block letters. Pupils could be challenged to draw a word with a set area, e.g., 100 square centimetres.



IDEAS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

- Use the Olympics as a stimulus or theme for school Sports Day. Discuss how measures are used in various disciplines, e.g., *running, long jump, weightlifting.*
- Measure distances of various activities in P.E., e.g., *bean bag throwing, ball throwing, long jump, jump for height.*
- Use Maths Eyes posters as a stimulus to discuss measures, e.g., *through website <https://haveyougotmathseyes.com> and take part in a measurement hunt around the school.* Allow children to take photographs of their findings and display these.
- Use the weather as a stimulus to explore measuring, e.g., *rainfall, wind speed, temperature.* Weather apps or Met Éireann could be used for information (<https://www.met.ie/climate/what-we-measure>). Explore how pupils could record the weather, e.g., *create a rain gauge from a plastic bottle to measure rainfall.*
- Examine a supermarket catalogue and discuss how measures are used when shopping. Create a shopping list based on the ingredients needed for a recipe. Pupils could be encouraged to create questions based on measures from the catalogue.
- Create an “Are You As Tall As?” display with pictures and heights of animals, characters or celebrities.

