



TIME TO COUNT

IMPACT REPORT

2022-23

**BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY
IRELAND**



INTRODUCTION

Time to Count has had a great year. There have been 17 programmes across the country and the feedback from children, volunteers, companies and schools is that the programme continues to be enjoyed by everyone who takes part and has real impact on people's lives.

There is no doubt that numeracy support for children is vitally important. The NAMER Study (National Assessment of Mathematics and English Reading), published this year showed that in Ireland nearly half of all 6th class students in the most disadvantaged schools are "low achievers" in maths. NALA (National Adult Literacy Association) reports that "1 in 4 adults struggle with everyday maths. For example, working out a 20% discount or dividing up a bill."

Supporting numeracy skills in children helps them to leave school better equipped for the world, with more choices available to them, and the opportunity to reach their full potential. It allows them to become an active and participating member of society, where they don't face barriers because they cannot access information.

The success of Time to Count this year was due to the generous sponsorship from Dormant Accounts Fund via the Department of Education, and Community Foundation for Ireland, along with funding from the participating businesses. So thank you to all the schools, companies, volunteers, children and families who have taken part and supported this year's programme. It has been fantastic to work with you and we hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

MELANIE FLYNN
BITCI Programme Co-ordinator



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- 01 To increase the enjoyment of numbers
- 02 To increase confidence in numbers
- 03 To increase understanding in numbers
- 04 To increase flexibility and perseverance in problem solving



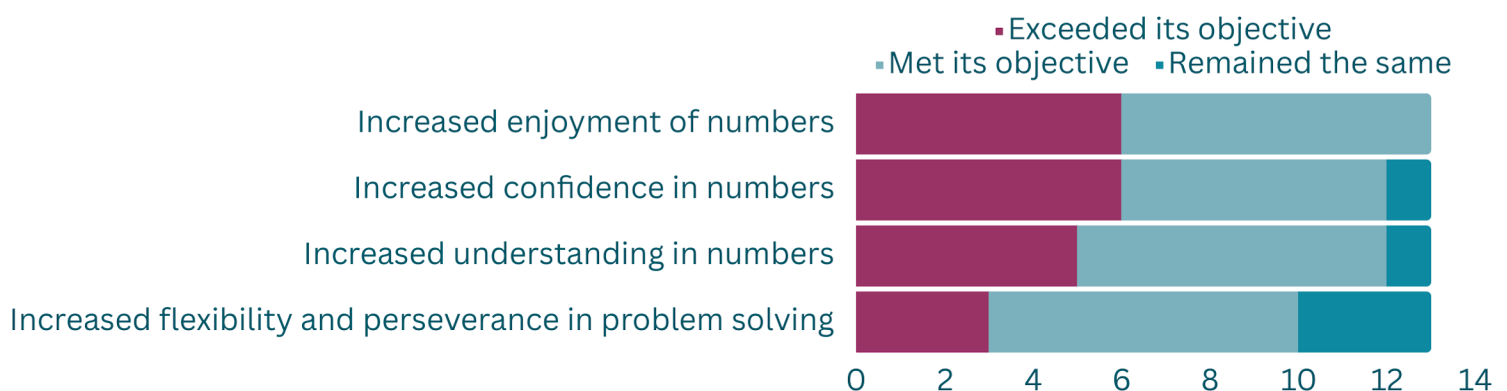


IMPACT ON CHILDREN & SCHOOLS



The overall impact of Time to Count on the participating schools was rated as **very positive**

Schools rated the **programme's achievement** of its **core objectives** as follows:





This year **438 children** took part in the Time to Count programme



92% of teachers felt it had a **very positive** impact on the children who took part



100% of teachers felt it **exceeded or met** its objective for increasing enjoyment of numbers



100% of teachers felt it **positively** impacted the children's social engagement



THE BIGGER PICTURE

TEACHERS REPORTED



"Our students and staff have formed strong links/relationships with their volunteers. It has been an excellent opportunity to form a lasting connection with a business in our local area".

"Children saw Maths as fun as distinct from learning it from a book".

"The games are available in the school so they can be used as an incentive when pupils make a good effort at their maths lesson. When your playing and having fun it can take the negative challenge out of a lesson".

"One thing in particular that I think is apparent from the programme is that the children now link maths with everyday life and games. A number of children would have struggled with the idea that maths is needed and used in more than just school. I think this programme really showed that maths is all around us".

"Working as a group where everyone is cooperating and there is less focus on the answer and there is an element of fun can help children to persevere and problem solve. Learning and having fun are a great way of reducing anxiety for children who struggle".

"It is a lovely programme that benefits the children greatly... The social aspect of the sessions is really great for the children too, the turn taking, compromise and interactions with the volunteers make for a well rounded experience for the girls".

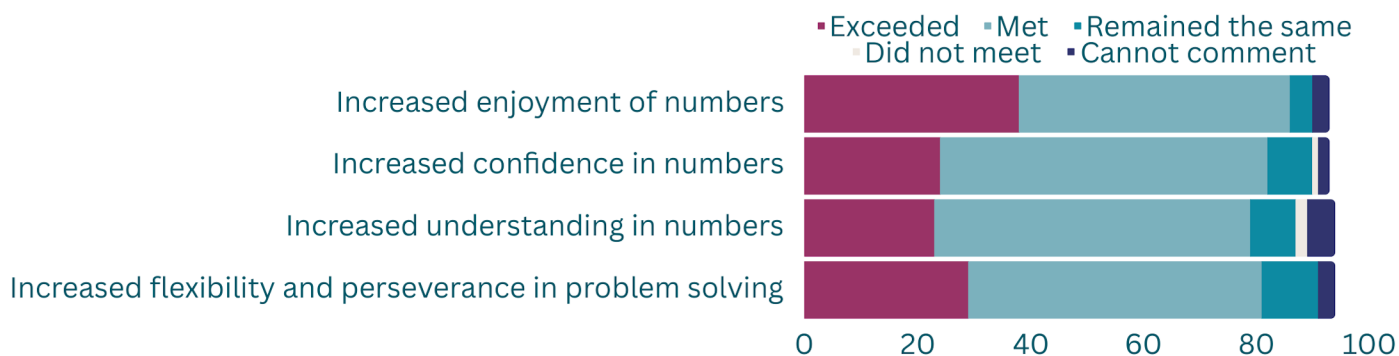


IMPACT ON VOLUNTEERS



Overall, the majority of volunteers agreed that Time to Count had a very **positive impact** on the participating children

Volunteers rated the **programme's achievement** of its **core objectives** as follows:





As well as enjoying Time to Count, many volunteers (90%) also noticed improvements in their own self-confidence (24%), their communication skills (37%), their self-awareness (40%) and interpersonal skills (30%).



74% out of volunteers agreed that Time to Count had a **very positive impact on the participating children**



99% of respondents found Time to Count a **meaningful employee volunteering experience**



99% of volunteers **would recommend Time to Count** to a friend or colleague



VOLUNTEERS COMMENTED



It was clear the programme provided volunteers with a much needed break from work and many said it was the highlight of their week.

"It was a great experience going into the school each week, It is wonderful to see the children having fun. It is also a great way of getting to know work colleagues outside of the work environment".

"Without second thought, this is the best thing I have done in years. Very relaxing, very pleasing and very enjoyable time. It is an enriching experience. I am looking forward to doing it again. (My cheeks would pain at the end of session because of smiling and laughing.)".

"I really enjoyed the programme. It was great to get out of the office and do something very different to what I do on a daily basis - really good to get a different perspective and it helps to improve my calmness and patience".

"Working with the kids puts a smile on your face and it is great to feel you are giving something back to the local community".

"The workplace visit was phenomenal, so good to bring them in. The staff loved it, the kids loved it. The sessions were brilliant, I'd undoubtedly do this again. I think everyone benefits and it pulls you away from your day to day to give something back".



IMPACT ON COMPANIES ●●●●●

Companies found the programme provided a feel good factor (82%), an enjoyable and meaningful volunteer opportunity (95%), provided an opportunity to make a contribution to their local community (82%), and contributed to their corporate responsibility agenda / strategy (68%).

An exciting aspect part of Time to Count is the workplace visit where the participating children attend their partnering company's workplace. This opens and normalises the work environment for them. It is often very significant for children who may have a familial history of unemployment.

The programme allows the company, "the opportunity to grow the company profile and share with the children the work we do and encourage them to look at future opportunities".



This year, **86%** of the programmes that took place **participated in a workplace visit.**



COMPANIES REPORTED



"As a software company, a lot of our time is spent on computers and in meetings online. This experience took everybody out of their comfort zone and I think we learned more from it than we ever expected. It gave a huge feeling of satisfaction, helping in the community. Every volunteer thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience".

"It's a hugely positive experience; it has the feel good factor combined with personal learning and development".

"We know what to expect having participated before which is why we continue to participate. It is such a great experience and opportunity to make a difference and give back to the local community".

"I believe volunteers benefit by getting involved in this community engagement project outside of their working hours by learning new skills, getting to know new colleagues".

"We also have formed a good relationship with the school having participated in the programme three times now. The staff are very friendly and welcoming and the children are great. I think all parties look forward to the sessions every week".

"As usual, the visit was a success. We are an engineering firm, so it is a good opportunity to show the kids how they can apply maths in their future. It was also great to see that most of them said they would love to work in the future in a company like ours!".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Time to Count would not have been possible without the commitment and contributions from the Dormant Accounts Fund via the Department of Education, The Community Foundation for Ireland, and the participating companies.

Arup

Astellas Ireland Co. Ltd

Cornmarket Group Financial Services

Enterprise Rent-a-Car

ESB Networks

Fexco

Gas Networks Ireland

IBM

John Sisk & Son (Holdings) Ltd

KPMG

Propylon

Veolia

Workday



Time to Count would not have been possible without the following schools. We thank each school for their dedication to the programme.

Francis Street C.B.S., Dublin 8

Glounaguillagh National School, County Kerry

Good Shepherd Primary School, Dublin 14

Ladyswell National School, Dublin 15

Mother of Divine Grace, Dublin 11

Presentation Primary George's Hill, Dublin 7

Queen of Angels Primary, Dublin 16

Scoil Aiseiri Chriost, County Cork

Scoil Mhuire, County Kerry

St Joseph's National School Fermoy, County Cork

St Mary's Primary School Dorset Street, Dublin 7

St Philips The Apostle Senior National School, Dublin 15

St Ronans, Dublin 22

St. Brigids Primary School, Dublin 8

St. Patrick's Girls' National School, Dublin 4

St. Vincent's Girls' National School, Dublin 1

Strawberry Hill National School, County Cork

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to social inclusion in Ireland.



Find out more

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