

Scoil Mhuire Naofa
Carrigtwohill
Co Cork
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Scoil Mhuire Naofa
Carraig Thuathail
Co Chorcaí
021-4883271
Mobile: 085-8709935

Rolla: 18000w

Policy on Exemption from Irish

Introduction:

This policy was drafted by staff and Board of Management (BoM) in response to recent changes in special educational provisions.

Relationship to the school Ethos:

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement of the school, which strives to enhance the self-esteem of all through providing for the intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of all.

Aims and Objectives:

- To allow for pupils of differing abilities, interests and circumstances
- To enhance inclusivity within the school
- To enable children of all abilities to access the curriculum in a learner friendly manner

Policy Content:

Exemption from the study of Irish may be allowed in the following exceptional circumstances only:

- A) Pupils whose education up to 12 years of age (or up to and including the final year of their primary education) was received outside the State and where they did not have opportunity to engage in the study of Irish
- B) Pupils who were previously enrolled as recognised pupils in primary schools who are being re-enrolled after a period spent abroad, provided that at least three consecutive years have elapsed since the previous enrolment in the state and are at least 12 years of age on re-enrolment
- C) Pupils who have at least reached second class and present with significant learning difficulties that are persistent despite having had access to a differentiated approach to language and literacy learning in both Irish and English over time. Documentary evidence to this effect, held by the school, should include Student Support Plans detailing
- regular reviews of learning needs as part of an ongoing cycle of assessment
 - target-setting
 - evidence-informed intervention and review, including test scores (word reading, reading comprehension, spelling, other scores of language/literacy) at key points of review. and at the time of the application for exemption present with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile.
- D) Children of Foreign diplomats or consular representatives in Ireland.

Príomhoide: Anne Marie Moylan
L. Príomhoide: Val Quigley

Chairperson: Maurice O'Donoghue
Secretary: Margot Hartnett

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E) Pupils enrolled in a special class setting are exempt from the study of Irish and are automatically issued with an exemption.

Pupils from the above categories are required to remain in the class during the Irish lesson so that they may have an opportunity to gain knowledge of spoken Irish and to participate in the learning activities. A pupil who is exempt from Irish should be included in aspects of Irish language activities according to the individual differentiated programme set in place by the teacher in consultation with the parents.

Procedures for granting an exemption from the study of Irish

A parent/guardian must make an application in writing, on behalf of the pupil, to the principal, by completing the application letter (Appendix A). This application letter can be requested at the school office or through the class teacher.

The principal will:

1. Ensure that the date of receipt of the application by the school is recorded on the form.
2. Acknowledge receipt of the application for exemption from the study of Irish in writing.
3. Discuss the written application with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and confirm the sub-paragraph on which the application is based (Criteria A, B C or D above) as soon as practicable following receipt of a written application.
4. Advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the next steps in processing the application.
5. Inform the parent(s)/guardian(s)/pupil regarding any implication of an exemption from the study of Irish for the student while in post-primary education and into the future.
6. Inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) that the application will be processed and the outcome confirmed in writing within 21 school days of receipt of the application.
7. Explain to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption from the study of Irish may be granted.
8. Inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) that, where an application is refused, the school's decision may be appealed to the Irish Exemptions Appeal Committee within 30 calendar days from the date the parent(s)/guardian(s) were notified of the decision of the school.
9. Explain to the parent(s)/guardian(s) the arrangements for the pupil's learning in the case of an exemption being granted.
10. Record the decision in the pupils file.

The outcome of the application process will be conveyed by the school principal in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s).

This Policy was ratified on October 22nd 2019.

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Appendix A:

To : Ms. Anne Marie Moylan

Re: Exemption from Irish

Dear Ms. Moylan,

I wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish for my child _____ as per the following circumstance as stated in Circular 52/19. (Please Tick as appropriate)

A	Pupils whose primary education up to 12 years of age was received outside the State and where they did not have the opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.	
B	Pupils who were previously enrolled as recognised pupils in primary schools who are being re-enrolled after a period spent abroad, provided that at least 3 consecutive years have elapsed since the previous enrolment in the state and are at least 12 years of age on re-enrolment.	
C	Pupils have at least reached second class and present with significant learning difficulties that are persistent despite having access to a differentiated approach to language and literacy learning in both Irish and English over time. Documentary evidence to this effect, held by the school, should include student support plans detailing:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reviews of learning needs as part of an ongoing cycle of assessment; • Target setting; • Evidence informed intervention and review including test scores (word reading, reading comprehension, spelling, other scores of language/literacy) at key points of review and at the time of application for exemption present with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile. 	
D	Children of foreign diplomats or consular representatives of Ireland.	

I understand that pupils are required to remain in the class during the Irish lesson so that they may have an opportunity to gain knowledge of spoken Irish and to participate in the learning activities. A pupil who is exempt from Irish should be included in aspects of Irish language activities according to the individual differentiated programme set in place by the teacher in consultation with the parents.

Yours sincerely,

Parents Signature

Date

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L. Príomhoide: Val Quigley

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