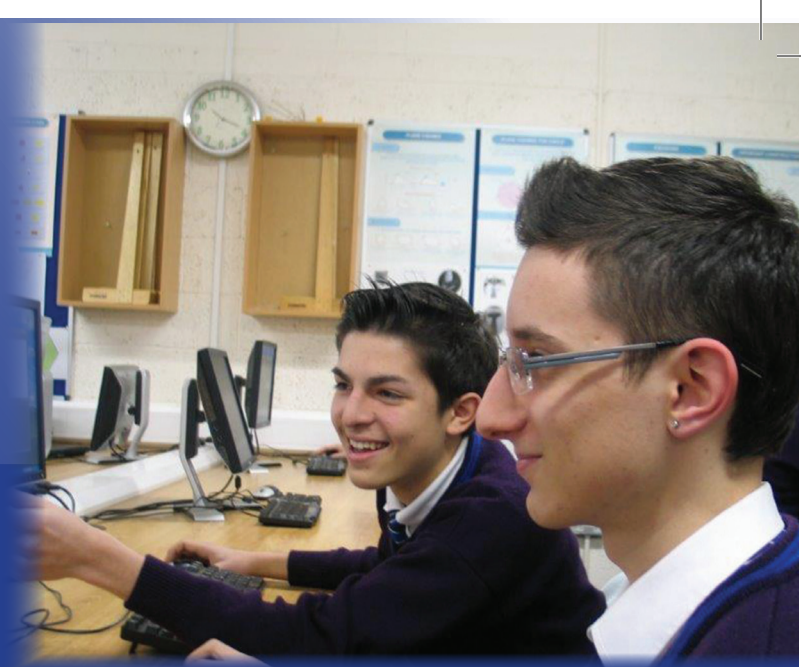


GAELTACHT SCHOOL RECOGNITION SCHEME

Language-based criteria for recognition as a Gaeltacht post-primary school



1	Extend the availability of a full curriculum through Irish, apart from the English and other language curricula, as the Gaeltacht school moves towards a total-immersion approach ¹
2	Deliver high quality educational experiences through Irish to all students focusing particular attention on the differentiated language needs of native Irish speakers ² as well as learners of Irish
3	Develop a whole-school action plan for improvement that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out how the school will ensure the use of Irish as the language of communication, instruction and socialisation within the school and • communicate and promote the benefits of learning Irish and learning through Irish to the school community (principal, staff, students, parents and board of management)
4	Review the quality of educational provision through Irish to ensure continuous improvement through the school self-evaluation (SSE) process
5	Implement L1 ³ specification for Irish at Junior Cycle
6	Use Irish-language resources, ⁴ when available, to support the teaching of all curricular areas through Irish, apart from English and other languages
7	Deliver curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities (where provided) through Irish
8	Support their school community in the language-planning process (under the Gaeltacht Act, 2012) by contributing to the use and maintenance of Irish in the school and local Gaeltacht community
9	Prioritise the use of Irish in communicating with parents, the local community and other parties
10	Establish useful and mutually-beneficial language and educational links with other local Irish-medium primary and/or post-primary schools by utilising online and blended-learning opportunities
11	Make every effort to recruit teaching and ancillary staff that are proficient in Irish, and have a knowledge and understanding of pedagogical practice relevant to teaching through Irish as well as an understanding of the language and cultural dynamics of the Gaeltacht.

¹ Total-immersion means that the learning environment operates solely through Irish (in this case, Irish as the first language of the school) with the exception of English and other languages. This enables the fuller development of students' language proficiency.

² A native speaker of Irish is defined as a child who is raised through Irish in an Irish-language community and whose parents speak Irish as the main language of communication in the home, such being declared at the point of enrolment for school (Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022, p 11)

³ L1 refers to Irish as the main language of the school in relation to teaching and learning, and communication in official, administrative and recreational affairs.

⁴ The COGG website www.cogg.ie provides a variety of resources to support teaching through Irish in primary and post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas.