

GAELTACHT SCHOOL RECOGNITION SCHEME

Language-based criteria for recognition as a Gaeltacht primary school



1	Implement a two-year total-immersion programme ¹ through Irish in infant classes, during which no English will be taught
2	Implement a total-immersion approach, where all areas of learning, apart from English, will be taught through Irish
3	Deliver high quality educational experiences through Irish to all pupils focusing particular attention on the differentiated language needs of native Irish speakers ² as well as learners of Irish
4	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 among the school community (principal, staff, pupils, parents and board of management)
5	Review the quality of educational provision through Irish to ensure continuous improvement through the school self-evaluation (SSE) process
6	Provide Irish-language learning experiences in accordance with the L1 ³ learning outcomes in the Primary Language Curriculum for Gaeltacht and Irish-medium schools
7	Use Irish-language resources ⁴ to support the teaching of all curricular areas through Irish, apart from the English curriculum
8	Deliver curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities (where provided) through Irish
9	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
10	Prioritise the use of Irish in communicating with parents, the local community and other parties
11	Establish useful and mutually-beneficial language and cultural links with local Irish-medium early-years settings (naíonraí)
12	Establish useful and mutually beneficial language and cultural links with local Irish-medium post-primary schools and other Irish-medium primary schools
13	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 A total-immersion programme in infant classes means that the learning environment operates solely in Irish and the teaching of English will commence from first class. This enables the fuller development of children's Irish-language capacities in infant classes.

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.