

FAQs for schools participating in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme:

1. What Supports are available to Schools who express an interest in the Gaeltacht Schools Recognition Scheme in 2018

The programme of supports for schools in the Gaeltacht that wish to express an interest to participate in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme in the 2018/19 school year are outlined in **Appendix C** of [Circular 0021/2018](#) in the case of primary schools and in **Appendix D** of [Circular 0022/2018](#) for post-primary schools.

2. Will primary school principals participating in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme for the first time in 2018/19 be able to access the release days for planning purposes outlined in Circular 0033/2017?

To support primary school principals new to the Scheme in 2018/19, two additional release days, with substitution cover, will be provided for teaching principals of schools opting to participate in the Scheme from **September to December 2018**. The two additional release days must be used by primary schools in the period September to December 2018 for the purpose of progressing the action-planning process linked to the language-based criteria for Gaeltacht school recognition, as set out in Section 3.2 of [Circular 0033/2017](#).

In the case of primary schools with administrative principals that are new to the Scheme in 2018, two additional release days will be provided **from September to December 2018** with substitution cover for one member of the teaching staff to support administrative principals in their action-planning processes.

3. How should a primary school principal who is taking release days under the terms of Circular 0033/2017 record those release days?

Principals should record the release days provided under the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme on the online claims system (OLCS) in the normal way. If the school experiences any difficulty in accessing these hours, the school should contact the Department.

In the case of release days being taken by teachers in schools with administrative principals, teacher absences are recorded in the same way as for absences to attend CPD seminars (See Question 5 below).

4. How do post-primary schools access the additional hours under the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme?

The additional hours related to the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme have been added to the post-primary school's allocation of hours and are accessed in the usual way.

5. How do schools apply for absences and substitution cover on the OLCS relating to the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme?

All absences at school level for teachers attending seminars, clustered follow-up workshops and absences in lieu of an administrative principals' release days for the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme may be recorded under the main category of Continuing Professional Development/Professional Activities and the sub-category of NCCA.

Additional part-time language support hours for primary schools participating in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme (Circular 0021/2018)

6. Can two or more schools in the Gaeltacht cluster their additional part-time Irish language support hours (Circular 0021/2018) to create a shared temporary post?

Yes. Schools should send full details of the proposed cluster to the Gaeltacht Education Unit on a completed application form. This application form is available on the Department's website on the following link: <https://www.education.ie/ga/An-C%C3%B3ras-Oideachais/Polasai-don-Oideachas-Gaeltachta-2017-2022/foirm-cnuasach-scoileanna-uaireanta-tacaiochta-gaeilge-2018.pdf>

7. Will temporary posts arising from the clustering of additional part-time Irish language support hours allocated to two or more schools participating in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme be filled from the panel?

The temporary posts arising from the clustering of additional part-time Irish language support hours should be filled in accordance with the Department's redeployment arrangements.

8. Who can deliver the additional Irish language support hours (Circular 0021/2018)?

The additional part-time Irish language support hours allocated to schools participating in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme must be delivered by fully registered teachers.

9. Can a teacher who is currently employed as a class teacher deliver the part-time additional language support hours in a cluster arrangement for a year and the temporary teacher be given classroom duties for the same period?

Yes, provided that the consent of the other schools in the cluster has been obtained by the principal considering this course of action. The school must be able to demonstrate this consent to the Department.