



Procedures
Testing
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Templates

Exemption from the Study of Irish

Caragh National School, Co. Kildare
18654A

Introduction

This policy was formulated in Caragh National School in 2019 in conjunction with the school staff, parents and Board of Management. This policy will replace the current policy on the Exemption of Irish in our school.

Rationale

This policy was drafted following the introduction of new guidelines issued by the Department of Education in September 2019. Circular 52/2019 is a revision of Circular 12/1996 and forms the basis for this revised school policy. These guidelines have been developed in response to the extensive feedback received in response to the publication of draft circulars in relation to exemptions from Irish. The guidelines are also informed by the principles of the Primary Language Curriculum and follow the needs based model as set out in the Continuum of Support for students with Special Educational Needs.

It is acknowledged that despite the flexibility of the PLC and the steps taken and supports put in place within the Continuum of Support in our school, that some children may continue to struggle to make adequate progress in acquiring the language of instruction in our school, namely English. In such circumstance and following the guidelines set out in Circular 52/2019 and the procedure and process set out below in this policy, an exemption from the study of Irish may be granted.

Relationship to School Ethos.

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement and vision of our school, which strives to enhance the self- esteem of all our students through providing for the intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of all, ensuring that every child is provided with every opportunity to reach their potential.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity surrounding the application, process and procedures which are to be adhered to should a child be granted or considered for an exemption from the study of Irish in our school.

At all times this policy aims to allow for pupils of differing abilities, interests and circumstances, enhances inclusivity within our school and strives to enable all children of all abilities to access the curriculum in our school.

Criteria for Exemption from the Study of Irish

The following criteria for granting an Irish exemption are set out in Circular 52/2019 and are quoted below. In granting an exemption from Irish in our school, the school authorities, in consultation with parents, must be satisfied that the criteria are met and the process has been followed correctly.

2.2 The circumstances in which a pupil may be granted an exemption from the study of Irish

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

Or

- 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

Or

- c. pupils who:

- i. have at least reached second class

and

- ii. 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 and evidence-informed intervention and review, including test scores (word reading, reading comprehension, spelling, other scores of language/literacy) at key points of review.

and

- iii. 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.

Or

- d. children of foreigners who are diplomatic or consular representatives in Ireland.

Process for Consideration

The decision to consider an exemption for any child in our school should only be entered in exceptional circumstances, and where due consideration has been given to the child's future learning.

The criteria for an exemption from Irish are set out below and these must be satisfied in all instances for such an exemption to be granted.

In circumstance 2.2(a), 2.2(b) or 2.2(d) the following steps are to be followed;

1. The parents, in consultation with the school principal, class teacher and support teacher, will on behalf of the pupil make a formal written application to the school for a Certificate of Exemption from the study of Irish. *Appendix 1*
2. If the school authorities are satisfied that the criteria are applicable, then a Certificate of Exemption on these grounds shall be granted. *Appendix 2*

In circumstances 2.2(c) the following steps are to be followed;

1. The parents, in consultation with the school principal, class teacher and support teacher, will on behalf of the pupil make a formal written application to the school for a Certificate of Exemption from the study of Irish. *Appendix 1*
2. The school principal, class teacher and support teacher must be satisfied that the child in question has presented with a score at / below the 10th percentile on a Drumcondra or Micra T test in Word Reading, Comprehension or Spelling. Such tests are a guide and are for consideration in the application process.
3. A meeting will be held with the class teacher and support teacher. The child's current progress in literacy will be reviewed. The child's current differentiated programme in English will be reviewed. The class teacher will outline the differentiated approach which will now be implemented for a period of 8-10 weeks.
4. An agreed approach with regard to Irish Exemption will be kept. *Appendix 2*
5. Following an 8-10 week period a further meeting will be convened with the class teacher and support teacher. Students response to targeted intervention will be reviewed at this point. A further 8-10 week period of differentiation may be considered. It will then be determined whether to proceed to the next step in the process.
6. The support teacher will administer a further standardised test with the pupil to determine if a further score below the 10th percentile is achieved. The test used at this stage will be the Wechsler Individual Attainment Test (WIAT). The test should be normed for the appropriate age range. This test is a discrete test as recommended by the DES in Circular 52/2019. Similar such tests may be used as per the circular.

7. In circumstances where an assessment has been carried out with the pupil, and an alternative discrete test as recommended in circular 52/2019 has been conducted, the results of this test will be considered in granting the exemption.
8. Should a further attainment at/below the 10th percentile be attained in Word Reading, Comprehension or Spelling, then an exemption from the study of Irish can be granted.
9. A Certificate of Exemption from the Study of Irish shall be granted by the school Principal. *Appendix 3*

For Consideration.

Parents are to be informed by the principal or class teacher of the implications if any an exemption for Irish will have on the child's education now and into the future.

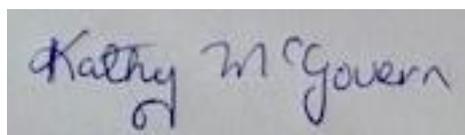
An exemption from Irish excludes a child from written Irish and from reading Irish. Every effort will be and should be made to include every pupil in some aspects of oral work and to include the pupil in Irish culture and history of the language.

Appeals Procedure.

Parents will be informed that should an application be refused that they may apply to the Irish Exemptions Appeals Committee. Parents must fill in the relevant form and send it to the committee through the Department of Education.

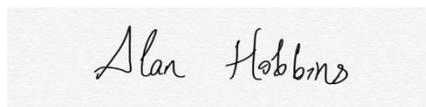
Ratification.

This policy was review and ratified by the Board of Management of Caragh National School.



Chairperson Board of Management

Date Jan 2020



Principal

Date Jan 2020

**Application for Exemption from the study of Irish
Caragh National School, Co. Kildare**

For Completion by Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

I / We wish to apply to Caragh National School for an exemption from the study of Irish on behalf our son / daughter.

Name of Pupil

Date of Birth

Class

Please indicate below the ground for applying for an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with Circular 0052/2019.

2.2a: pupils whose education up to 12 years of age (or up to and including the final year of primary education) was received outside the state and where they did not have opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.

2.2b: pupils who were previously enrolled as a 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.

2.2c: pupils who have at least reached second class and present with significant and persistent learning difficulties and present with a Standardised Score in a discrete test at/below the 10th percentile in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling.

2.2d: children of foreigners who are diplomatic or consular representatives in Ireland.

Please provide details of any supporting documentation being submitted to the school.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

I / We the the undersigned understand that documentation provided ay be reviewd for the purposes of processing this application by relevant school persone and other professionals if necessary.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Received by the School.

Principal _____

Date: _____

Roll Number

**Application for Exemption from the study of Irish
Caragh National School, Co. Kildare**

Targeted Approach

Name of Pupil			
Class			
Teacher			Support Teacher
Standardised Test	Percentile Results		
Word Reading Reading Comprehension Spelling			
Outline of Concerns			
Details of existing differentiated approach in English			
Details of targeted approach in Irish			
Parents' Signatures _____			
Teachers' Signatures _____			
Date: _____			
Date of Next Meeting			

**Application for Exemption from the study of Irish.
Caragh National School. Co. Kildare.**

Log of Actions / Review

Name of Pupil	
Class	
Teacher	
Standardised Test Results	
Date of First Meeting	Today 's Date
Response to Targeted Approach	
Is further Differentiation required Yes / No	
If No, why not	
Date of WIAT testing	
Results of WIAT	
Decision to grant Exemption Yes / No	
On what grounds is the exemption granted?	
Signature of Class Teacher	
Signature of Support Teacher	
Principal's Signature	

Certificate of Exemption from the Study of Irish
Caragh National School, Co. Kildare
Roll Number 18654A

Circular 0052/2019

Name of pupil: _____

Date of birth: _____

The above-named pupil has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with the terms of Circular 0052/2019 and on the grounds of the following exceptional circumstance (please tick as appropriate):

2.2 a. The pupil received his/her education up to 12 years of age (or up to and including the final year of primary education outside the state and where he/she did not have opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.

2.2 b. The pupil was previously enrolled as a recognised pupil in primary school and is being re-enrolled after a period of not less than three consecutive years spent abroad and is 12 years of age on re enrolment.

2.2 c. The pupil has at least reached second class and presents with significant learning difficulties that are persistent despite having had access to targeted intervention to support language and literacy learning in both Irish and English over time and presents with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile.

2.2d. The pupil is the child of a foreigner/foreigners who is/are diplomatic or consular representatives in Ireland.

Possible implications of exemption from the study of Irish for my son/daughter have been explained to me.

Signed: _____
Parent/Guardian

Signed: _____
Parent/Guardian

Date _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____
School Principal

Date: _____

