

Monaleen N.S.

Policy on Exemption from the study Irish



Exemption from the study of Irish

Introduction:

This policy was drafted by the staff and Board of Management of Monaleen National to clarify the circumstances around which an exemption from Irish may be granted according to Circular 12/96.

Rationale and Relationship to school ethos

Monaleen N.S. celebrates our multi-cultural identity and the role that the Irish language has in our school and community and in social, cultural and political life in Ireland.

We are an inclusive school committed to the holistic education of all of our pupils. Irish is a part of our daily lives in Monaleen National School, however we are cognisant of the needs some of our pupils have to study only one language while in school. We endeavour to include all children in the teaching of basic communication skills in Irish throughout their primary school education, however other work may be provided for children who are exempt from the study of Irish where appropriate.

Circular 12/96 outlines the circumstances around which an exemption from Irish may be granted. This policy seeks to provide clarity for parents with regard to the Irish exemption.

This policy was formulated by consultation with staff and the Board of Management of our school and reflects the need for clarity around the procedures relating to provision of an exemption from the study of Irish.

AIM

To ensure that procedures around applications for an exemption from the study of Irish are clear to all stake-holders in the school.

Guidelines and General procedures:

- The school requires a written application for exemption from the parents/guardians of the particular child. It must be accompanied by documentary evidence such as age, previous schooling etc. and a psychologist's report (if relevant).
- The principal, in consultation with staff, class teachers and BoM will grant an exemption if warranted and will present a certificate of exemption to the parents in accordance with Circular 12/96.
- The school will keep a copy of the exemption on file.

Eligibility for Exemption from the study of Irish in Primary Schools (as per Circular 12/96)

Pupils in the following circumstances may be allowed exemption from the study of Irish in national schools:-

a) Pupils whose primary education up to 11 years of age was received in Northern Ireland or outside Ireland, provided that the parent or guardian who had custody of the pupil was permanently resident in Northern Ireland or outside Ireland during the pupil's period of education up to that age;

(b) Pupils who were previously enrolled as recognized pupils in national schools who are being reenrolled after a period spent abroad, provided that at least three years have elapsed since the previous enrolment in the State and the pupil is at least 11 years of age on re-enrolment;

(c) Pupils

(i) who function intellectually at average or above average level but have a Specific Learning Disability of such a degree of severity that they fail to achieve expected levels of attainment in basic language skills in the mother tongue, or

(ii) who have been assessed as having a general learning disability due to serious intellectual impairment and are also failing to attain adequate levels in basic language skills in the mother tongue, or

(iii) who have been assessed as having a general learning disability due to serious sensory impairment, and are also failing to attain adequate levels in basic language skills in the mother tongue.

The evidence of such a disability must be furnished by a qualified psychologist, supported in the case of (iii) by a report from an appropriate medical specialist. In addition, a full report on the pupil must be furnished by the school.

(d) Pupils from abroad, who have no understanding of English when enrolled, would be required to study one language only, Irish or English;

(e) Children of foreigners who are diplomatic or consular representatives in Ireland;

(f) Children from other countries in whose case the Minister is satisfied that they are resident in this country as political refugees.

Pupils from the above categories may be allowed to remain in the class during the Irish lesson so that they may have an opportunity to gain a knowledge of spoken Irish and to participate in the learning activities. Alternatively, other suitable arrangement may be made such as allocating school work on other subject areas.

Outline of procedures:

- o A written application for exemption will be made by a parent or guardian to the principal of the school. This application will specify the grounds on which the exemption is sought. It will be accompanied by documentary evidence of age and previous schooling as appropriate to the grounds cited.
- o The school authorities will satisfy themselves as to the documentary evidence submitted.
- o The school authorities will prepare a full report on the student in consultation with relevant teachers.
- o Where exemption is being sought under sub-paragraph 1(c) above, the parent or guardian will be required to furnish reports from a qualified psychologist and appropriate medical specialist as appropriate.
- o A decision to grant exemption will be conveyed to the parent or guardian by way of a written certificate, signed by the school principal, that the exemption has been given in accordance with this Circular. The certificate will also cite the name, address and type of school, the student's name and date of birth, the sub-paragraph under which the exemption is being granted and the specific grounds for exemption. Where the exemption is being granted under sub-paragraph 1(c), the name and address of the qualified psychologist and the date of the psychologist's report and the name of the medical specialist and date of report, if applicable, will be included.
- o The application, school report, psychologist's report, report of medical specialist, copy of certificate of exemption and other relevant documents will be retained by the school and will be made available for inspection by authorised officers of the Department.
 - The psychologist's report should be of a full psychological assessment carried out by a qualified psychologist not more than two years prior to the application for exemption.
 - The school report should include information on assessments carried out in the school by remedial teachers or other teachers. It should include, as well, the results of tests, reports from relevant teachers, information on the pupil's attendance, application to study and any remedial or other special help given. Samples of the pupil's unaided written expression should also be attached to the report.
- o A copy of the exemption certification should be sent to the relevant second level school when the pupil in question has completed her/his primary education.

For further information, please see Circular 12/96 on the Department of Education website.

Communication with parents

- This policy will be published on the school website.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be launched in January 2019 and implemented fully from January 2019. The policy will be reviewed on a two year cycle.

The school management team and the teachers will implement this policy.

The Board of Management ratified this policy on _____.

Chairperson

Date

Date of Implementation: _____ **Review Date:** _____