



Scoil Mhuire, Milford, Co. Cork.

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Policy on Exemption from Irish

Introduction:

This policy was drafted by staff and Board of Management (BoM) in response to recent changes in the criteria which qualify a child for an exemption from the study of Irish. This policy should be read in conjunction with Circular 0052/2022.

Rationale:

Circular 0052/2022 five categories of pupils who may be entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish, including children with specific learning difficulties, general learning disabilities and/or sensory impairments and some of our foreign national pupils.

Relationship to the school Ethos:

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement of the school, which strives to enhance the self esteem of all through providing for the intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of all.

Aims and Objectives:

- To allow for pupils of differing abilities, interests and circumstances
- To enhance inclusivity within the school
- To enable children of all abilities to access the curriculum in a learner friendly manner
- To ensure that parents have the information they need to make an informed decision for their child/children

Policy Content:

Before granting an exemption from Irish, the school requires evidence of a specific or general learning disability from a qualified psychologist or in the case of a child with a sensory impairment, from a qualified medical practitioner. Children of foreign nationals who are resident in the country will also be granted an exemption from Irish, particularly if their grasp of the English language is limited.

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 0054/2022.
- Note: The school no longer needs to send a copy of the exemption form to the DES. The school grants the exemption and keeps the form on file.
- If an exemption is not granted the principal will explain the reasons to the parents.
- The criteria under which a child will qualify for an exemption from the study of Irish are as follows:
 - The pupil is moving from a different country without previous experience of learning the Irish language.
 - the pupil experiences significant literacy difficulties which are an obstacle to their learning across the curriculum
 - The pupil experiences a high level of multiple and persistent needs that are a significant barrier to their participation and engagement in their learning and school life.
 - the pupil is in a recognised special school or class or was previously enrolled in a recognised special school or class or the pupil has a recommendation has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and or/in a special class in a mainstream school.
 - The pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s) is a diplomatic or consular representative(s) of another country to Ireland irrespective of age or educational history.

Roles and Responsibilities:

In-school Management, class teachers, BoM will contribute to the implementation of school procedures.

Success Criteria:

- Seamless integration of non-nationals and pupils with learning difficulties
- Happy school learning environment
- Positive teacher/parental feedback

Review:

This policy will be reviewed in 2023 or in the event of any legislative changes.

Ratified by B.O.M of Scoil Mhuire Milford on 30.3.23

Signed John Dillon
Danny O Flynn

Chairperson
Principal