



Policy on Exemption from Irish

Introduction:

This policy was drafted by staff and Board of Management (BoM) in response to recent changes in special educational provisions.

Rationale:

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of pupils entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish due to specific learning difficulties, general learning disabilities and/or sensory impairments.

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

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 12/96.
- 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.



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

Drafting and Implementation

This policy was drafted in 2016 and was implemented in _____

Review:

This policy will be reviewed in 2018.

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Signed: _____

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____



Date: _____

To Ms. Minehane,

We, _____, parents of _____, _____ [D.O.B.], hereby request an exemption from the study of Irish for _____, based on the fact that _____ psychological report supports his/her exemption from study of Irish. We have discussed this matter at length with Ms. Minehane and have been made aware that:

1. _____, may, in the future, be restricted from certain jobs where Irish may be a requirement, may be restricted from certain courses in some third level colleges and that there may be other longer-term, as yet unforeseen, implications.
2. The school's goal is to maximise the child's participation and enjoyment in Irish oral language and to ensure he/she feels part of the Irish culture and ethos of the school, thereby increasing the likelihood of him/her being able to re-engage with Irish in the future.

Thank you,

Parent's Signature

Parent's Signature



Date: _____

To Ms. Minehane,

We, _____, parents of _____, _____ [D.O.B.], hereby request an exemption from the study of Irish for _____, based on the fact that _____ has moved from abroad, and has no understanding of English when enrolled, and therefore as per circular 12/96 "would be required to study one language only, Irish or English". We have discussed this matter at length with *Insert Principal name* and have been made aware that:

1. _____, may, in the future, be restricted from certain jobs where Irish may be a requirement, may be restricted from certain courses in some third level colleges and that there may be other longer-term, as yet unforeseen, implications.
2. The school's goal is to maximise the child's participation and enjoyment in Irish oral language and to ensure he/she feels part of the Irish culture and ethos of the school, thereby increasing the likelihood of him/her being able to re-engage with Irish in the future.

Thank you,

Parent's Signature

Parent's Signature



Procedure for Exemption from Irish under Circular 12/96

Pupil's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Exemption: _____

Attached: (Supporting Documentation for retention in school)

Written application from parents

Psychologist's Report

School Report

- Standardised Test Results
- Teacher's Reports
- Sample of unaided written work

Copy of Certificate

All the above are in the Irish Exemption File in the Office.

Copy of Certificate forwarded Parents on: Date: _____

Copy of Certificate to Pupils Class File on: Date: _____



CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

Name of School: Caheragh N.S. **Roll Number:** 19557H
Address: Caheragh, Drimoleague. Co. Cork **Email:** caheraghns@gmail.com
Telephone: 028-31647

Name of Pupil: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name and Address of Psychologist:

Date of Report: _____

Name and Address of Medical Specialist:

Date of Report: _____

I certify that the above-named pupil has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish in primary schools in accordance with the terms of Circular 12/96. The exemption has been granted on the following grounds:

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Principal Teacher

I/We understand that the school does not accept responsibility for the curtailing of any career opportunity resulting from this exemption from the study of Irish.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Parents/Guardians