



Irish Language and Cultural Activities Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was created collaboratively with all teaching staff following DES circular 0054/2022, part 2.2.3 and part 2.2.4 along with Circular 0052/2019, “In the case of students in special schools and in special classes in mainstream schools, and in recognising the authority devolved to the management authorities in decision making concerning the Irish language learning needs of the students concerned, a formal application for a Certificate of Exemption is not required.”

However; “Students in special schools and in special classes in mainstream schools will therefore be exempt without holding a Certificate of Exemption. In line with the Department’s policy above however, schools are expected and encouraged to provide all students, to the greatest extent possible and in a meaningful way, with opportunities to participate in Irish language and cultural activities at a level appropriate to their learning needs.” This policy seeks to clarify what this looks like in St Peters School.

Aims & Objectives

The formulation of this policy enables our school to effectively;

- meet its requirements in line with the circulars mentioned above,
- ensure that every student is accessing the curriculum in a broad, balanced and appropriate way and at a level that is appropriate to their learning needs,
- encourage participation in cultural activities including Irish language and Irish cultural activities,
- foster an appreciation of Irish Language and Culture in a meaningful and engaging way.

Activities

- Using a thematic approach e.g., Nollaig activities at Christmas, celebrating Nollaig na mBan, cultural activities for St. Patrick’s Day, Irish hymns at pastoral events.

- Using story time to teach Irish cultural stories and myths and follow-on activities related to these myths through lessons, as appropriate.
- Teaching Irish cultural songs and Irish language songs during music lessons as appropriate.
- Visiting local historical sites of interest on school outings.
- Irish dancing during PE, as appropriate.
- Teaching Irish cultural stories and myths during drama and art lessons, as appropriate
- Weaving Irish historical stories and myths into SEE lessons, as appropriate.
- Studying Ireland political, social and cultural history as outlined in both the primary and post primary curricula.
- Celebrating of Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Where possible show Irish translation beside English signage around the school.

Summary

This policy reinforces the elements of the school vision which advocates providing a happy, safe, holistic learning environment for each member of the school community, allowing each student to reach their full potential through appropriately supported, resourced, evidence-based teaching and learning. It also further develops the promise to offer each young person an opportunity to develop his or her capabilities so that they may participate fully in society and to nurture a sense of identity.

This policy has been drawn up by the principal in collaboration with the staff of St. Peter's and in consultation with the Board of Management. It will be made available to all members of the school community.

This policy will be reviewed annually and amended if necessary.

Rosemary Fahy

Principal St. Peter's School

Eoin Ó Donnagáin

Chairperson to the Board of Management

Signed:



Date: 26th November 2025

Signed:



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