

# **Borrisokane Community College**

## **Exemption from Irish Policy**

### **Relationship to the school Ethos:**

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement of the school which seeks to promote a caring and committed school community which facilitates the education of all our students.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

1. To allow for pupils of differing abilities, interests and circumstances.
2. To enhance inclusion within the school and to streamline the full integration of all students.

### **Categories of students eligible:**

As per Circular M10/94 an exemption from Irish is sought for the following categories of pupils:

- a) Pupils who arrive to Ireland after the age of 11 from Northern Ireland or outside of Ireland. This includes pupils who were previously enrolled as recognised pupils in a primary or second-level school who are being re-enrolled after a period spent abroad, provided that at least three years have elapsed since their previous enrolment in the State.
- b) Pupils from abroad, who have no understanding of English, when enrolled, would be required to study one language only, Irish or English.
- c) Pupils who have been assessed as having a general learning disability, due to serious intellectual or sensory impairment and are also failing to attain adequate levels in basic language skills in the mother tongue.
- d) Pupils who have evidence of 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.

### **Procedure**

The following procedures will apply:

- The school requires that a written application for exemption from Irish be made by a parent or guardian to the principal of the school. (An application form is available from the school.) This application will specify the grounds on which the exemption is sought. If the school does not already have the relevant reports, the letter must be accompanied by documented evidence such as age, previous schooling, a psychologist's report if required or a report from a medical specialist if relevant.
- The school principal on receipt of the application will prepare a full report on the student in consultation with relevant teachers.
- 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 Circular M10/94.
- 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.
- Students who qualify for an Exemption from Irish do not have to use this exemption – i.e. they may study Irish.

### **Review and evaluation**

This policy was drawn up during the school year 2009/2010. It was reviewed by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) team, staff, and Board of Management. This policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by the SEN team and it will be updated with any changes made in Department of Education and Science policy. The partners will be consulted in relation to any changes to the policy.

Adopted by Board of Management on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2010.