



Borrisokane Community College



Irish Exemption Policy



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Borrisokane Community College

Exemption from the Study of Irish Policy



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 students of differing abilities, interests, and circumstances.
2. To enhance inclusion within the school and to streamline the full integration of all.
3. To comply with guidelines given in Circular Letter **Circular 0055/2022**.

Categories of Students Eligible

The grounds for making an application for exemption from the study of Irish are set out in Circulars 0054/2022 and 0055/2022. These exceptional circumstances include:

- Students who have completed their primary education outside the State and did not have the opportunity to study Irish.
- Students aged 12 or older who were previously enrolled in a recognised school in Ireland and are re-enrolling after at least three consecutive years abroad.
- Children of foreign diplomatic or consular representatives (primary level only).
- Students with significant and persistent learning difficulties, documented through a Student Support Plan over at least two years, including evidence-informed interventions and standardised test scores at or below the 10th percentile in word reading, reading comprehension, or spelling.
- Students enrolled in special schools or ASD classes, who are automatically exempt but may choose to study Irish if appropriate.

Application Process

A written application for an exemption must be submitted using the official Department of Education form, available online. Applications may be made by the parent/guardian or by the student if aged 18 or older. The application must clearly state the grounds for exemption and include all required documentation. The school principal, in consultation with relevant staff, will review the application and issue a decision within 21 school days. All exemptions must be recorded on POD/PPOD systems.

Decision and Communication

- Acknowledge receipt of the application in writing.
- Confirm eligibility criteria and discuss implications with parents/guardians and the student.
- Issue a written decision within 21 school days.
- Provide a signed Certificate of Exemption where granted.
- Explain arrangements for the student's learning following exemption.
- Retain all documentation securely in compliance with data protection laws.

Appeals Procedure

Where an application is refused, the parent(s)/guardian(s)/student may appeal to the Irish Exemptions Appeal Committee within 30 calendar days of the decision. The appeal will review whether the school adhered to the guidelines. The IEAC decision is binding. Further recourse may be made to the Ombudsman or Ombudsman for Children as appropriate.

Record Keeping and Reporting

All documentation related to applications and decisions will be retained securely in the Principal's Exemption File and reported to the Department of Education via POD/PPOD systems. Records will be available for review by authorised officials.

Arrangements for Exempt Students

Students exempt due to learning needs will attend support classes to address those needs. Students exempt on other grounds may remain in Irish classes where feasible.

Sharing information of student's Certificate of Exemption between schools

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the student (where he/she is the applicant) to ensure that a copy of the student's Certificate of Exemption is made available to Borrisokane Community College on enrolment into the school.

Further Information and Guidance

Further information including Application Forms, Guidance Information, and Appeals Form can be found on the Department of Education & Skills website at this link:

[Exemption from the study of Irish](#)

APPENDIX 1: APPLICATION FORM FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH

Application for Exemption from the Study of Irish Post-Primary Schools For completion by the parent(s)/guardian(s) on behalf of a student or a student who has reached 18 years of age

Name of student: _____

Date of birth: _____

Year: _____

Name of school: _____

I/We wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish on behalf of _____ or I _____ (student who has reached 18 years) wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish. Please indicate the ground for applying for an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with **Circular 0055/2022 by circling the appropriate reason.**

- 1a. Students who have completed their primary education outside the State and did not have the opportunity to study Irish.
- 1b. Students aged 12 or older who were previously enrolled in a recognised school in Ireland and are re-enrolling after at least three consecutive years abroad.
- 1c. Children of foreign diplomatic or consular representatives (primary level only).
- 1d. Students with significant and persistent learning difficulties, documented through a Student Support Plan over at least two years, including evidence-informed interventions and standardised test scores at or below the 10th percentile in word reading, reading comprehension, or spelling.
- 1.e. Students enrolled in special schools or ASD classes, who are automatically exempt but may choose to study Irish if appropriate.

Please provide detail of any supporting documentation being submitted to the school

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

I/We the undersigned understand that documentation provided may be reviewed for the purpose of processing this application by relevant school personnel and other professionals where necessary.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

For the school:

Date of receipt of application: _____ Principal: _____

Date: _____ School roll number: _____