

SCOIL FREASTOGAIL MUIRE

Exemption from Study of Irish Policy (Sept. 2008)

In accordance with the principle that due allowance should be made to cater for 'pupils' individual differences in ability, interest and circumstances, the school authorities may consider applying to Department of Education and Science (DES) so that a pupil may be exempt from the study of Irish as per DES Circular 12/96. Each application will be assessed individually, In some instances a recommendation from a recognised psychologist will be required.

When an exemption has been granted, the pupil will continue as part of the mainstream class during the Irish lesson. The class teacher will endeavour to make suitable arrangements to allocate other suitable work during curriculum Irish time.

Exemption from the study of Irish may not be portrayed as a process to downgrade the Irish subject in the eyes of either the parents, the exempt pupil or the other class pupils.

Oral Irish

Oral Irish is designed to meet the learning needs of a wide variety of pupils. It is one of the communicative languages of each class and of the school. The activity centred nature of the Oral Irish Programme should appeal to practically all pupils. The communicative nature of the Oral Irish Programme should also assist to consolidate the listening and oral skills of the pupils. The exempt pupil will be expected to attend to the Spoken Irish exercises and to participate in the learning activities of the class during this time. Only in very exceptional circumstances will a child be granted permission to be totally exempt of this Oral Irish communicative process.

Irish Cultural Integration

Aspects of Irish are also integrated throughout curriculum areas. Children who are granted exemption from Irish will have to fully participate during SESE time, aspects of Music, and so forth, where Irish terms, rhymes, poetry, phrases, sentences and songs etc. will be part of these programmes. Exempt pupils will be obliged and accept that such an integration process is the norm and as such he/she is not allowed to select/choose that he/she can be exempted for any of these topics.

Parental Support

When an exemption from any aspect of Irish is granted, the parents must be supportive and endorse that Irish permeates throughout the Curriculum and as such, accept and encourage the child's participation in these curriculum areas.

Resource Teacher

In the event that exempt pupils have the facility of a resource teacher, the school will endeavour to provide this resource, during that period of the day/week when the period of exemption is applicable to the pupils.

Homework Assignments

Exempt pupils will be allowed to be exempt from the recognised areas of homework directly related to their exemption. Teachers will endeavour to give supplementary work and will anticipate that this work will be supervised and supported as much as possible in the home.

Irish Assessments

Children are assessed using a wide variety of methods both formal and informal. While the pupil who is exempt from aspects of Irish and as such exempt from those formal assessments of these areas, assessment of their oral participation may be documented.

Career Choice

Exemption from Irish may limit the career choices of the pupil in later life and the granting of the exemption by the school is only considered following a formal written request of same by parents.

The school does not take responsibility for the curtailing of any career opportunity resulting from the exemption of Irish.

Declaration

I have read the policy of the school in relation to exempting my child from aspects of the study of Irish. I understand and agree to the terms of the exemption.

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

