



Riverview Educate Together National School

Irish Exemption Policy

This policy was reviewed and ratified by:

**Riverview Educate Together Board of Management ratified May
2022**

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Joan Ward: Chairperson Board of Management

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Margaret Burke: Principal

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy was formulated by Riverview Educate Together National School in 2022, in accordance with the Department of Education Circular 0052/2019 and relevant guidelines.

2.0 RATIONALE

This policy was drafted following the introduction of new guidelines issued by the Department of Education in September 2019, Circular 0052/2019 is a revision of Circular 12/1996 and forms the basis for this revised school policy. These guidelines have been developed to provide guidance for staff and parents/guardians around the criteria and application process of an exemption from the study of Irish.

The language component of the Primary Curriculum is for all pupils and comprises of both English and Irish. In exceptional circumstances, some pupils may be granted an exemption from the study of Irish.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP TO THE SCHOOL ETHOS

The school promotes positive home-school contacts, not only in relation to the welfare of children, but also in relation to all aspects of school life. This policy is in keeping with the school ethos through the provision of a safe, secure and caring school environment and the furthering of positive home-school links.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

- To allow for pupils for 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

5.0 CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH

Since September 2019, with the publishing of Circular 0052/2019, the onus has been placed on schools to ascertain whether a student should qualify for and be granted an exemption from the study of Irish. Exempting a pupil from the study of Irish should be considered only in exceptional circumstances. The decision to exempt a pupil from the study of Irish is an important decision that has implications for his/her access to the curriculum and his/her future learning. The decision to grant an exemption from the study of Irish is made by the principal teacher, but it must be made following detailed discussion with the pupil's parent(s)/guardians(s), the class teacher, special education teachers, and the pupil. The school will follow the procedure directed by circular 0052/2019.

Exemptions are essentially only available to:

- a) Pupils whose education up to 12 years of age (or up to and including the final year of their primary education) was received outside the state and where they did not have an opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.
- b) Pupils who were previously enrolled as recognised pupils in primary schools who are being re-enrolled after a period spent abroad, provided that at least three consecutive years have elapsed since the previous enrolment in the state and they are at least 12 years of age on re-enrolment.
- c) Pupils who:

- I. Have at least reached second class, and
- II. Present with significant learning difficulties that are persistent despite having had access to a differentiated approach to language and literacy learning in both Irish and English over time. Documentary evidence to this effect, held by the school, should include Student Support Plans detailing, regular reviews of learning needs as part of an ongoing cycle of assessment, target-setting and evidence-informed intervention and review, including test scores (word reading, reading comprehension, spelling, other scores of language/literacy) at key points of review, and
- III. At the time of application for exemption present with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile.

Or

- d) Children of foreigners who are diplomatic or consular representatives of Ireland.

6.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

The decision to consider an exemption for any child in our school should only be entered in exceptional circumstances, and where due consideration has been given to the child's future learning.

An examination of whether a student should be considered for an Irish exemption can be started in 3 ways:

1. A request from a parent/guardian (Appendix 1).
 - I. Consultation will take place between the School Principal, Support Teacher and class teacher as to whether a student would benefit or not from an Irish exemption. If in the experience of the teachers it is felt they would not benefit, parents will be strongly recommended that an exemption should not be pursued at this time.
 - II. If it is felt the student would benefit from an exemption, the support teacher will ascertain through assessment whether the student fits the testing criteria.
 - III. If the student fits the criteria, the school will begin the formal paperwork process as outlined in the Irish Exemption Guidelines involving parental application, sharing of information, checklist of actions (Appendix 2) to be taken and the Certificate of Exemption.
2. The school will monitor every pupil with regards to whether, in the school's view, that the pupil might benefit from being considered for an Irish Exemption. The circular directs that any such application must be initiated by the parents / guardian. Therefore the school, will, in cases where it is of the view that a pupil might benefit from an Irish Exemption, proceed as follows:

- I. Support Teachers analysis of testing scores indicates it is likely a student may be eligible for an exemption, the following will take place:
 - II. A consultation will take place between the Support Teacher and class teachers as to whether a student would benefit or not from an Irish Exemption. If in the experience of the teachers, it is felt they would not benefit, then an exemption will not be pursued until a parent makes an application.
 - III. If it is felt the student would benefit from an exemption, the class teacher will consult with parents to ascertain if it is something the parents would like to pursue.
 - IV. If the parents wish to pursue an exemption, the support teacher will ascertain through assessment whether the student fits the testing criteria.
 - V. If the student fits the criteria, the school will begin the formal paperwork process.
3. A request from a class teacher
- I. Support teacher will ascertain through assessment whether the student fits the testing criteria.
 - II. Of they fit the criteria, the class teacher will consult with the parents
 - III. If the parent / guardian wishes to proceed, the school will help them begin the formal paperwork process.

7.0 RECORDING THE DECISION

The outcome of the application process will be conveyed by the school principal in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Where an exemption is granted, a Certificate of Exemption, signed and dated by the school Principal will be issued (Appendix 3).

The Certificate of Exemption will also state the name and address of the school, the school roll number, the pupil's name, date of birth and the sub-paragraph under which the exemption is being granted.

Parents/guardians and pupils should be informed of the option not to exercise the exemption granted at that time, without any loss of the right to exercise it at a future time.

To support inclusive practice, pupils who are exempt from the study of Irish will be included in a meaningful way in aspects of Irish Language and cultural activities in line with his/her abilities and interests. Pupils will remain in the class during the Irish lesson so that they may have an opportunity to gain a knowledge of spoken Irish and to participate in the learning activities.

8.0 APPEAL PROCESS

Where the application for exemption from the study of Irish is refused, a parent/guardian can appeal the school's decision to the Irish Exemptions Appeal Committee (IEAC). The deliberations of the IEAC will focus solely on the process the school engaged in reaching its decision. The IEAC will consider how the school followed the process as prescribed in this Circular and the accompanying Guidelines for Primary Schools.

An appeal must be lodged with 30 calendar days from the date the decision of the school not to grant an exemption was notified in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s). The Irish Exemptions Appeal Form and Guidelines for Primary schools can be accessed at:

www.education.ie/en/parents/information/irish-exemption/

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In-school management, class teachers, Board of Management will contribute to the implementation of school procedures.

**Application for Exemption from the Study of Irish
Primary Schools
For completion by the parent(s)/guardian(s)**

Name of pupil	
Date of Birth	
Class	
Name of School	

I/We wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish on behalf of _____

Please indicate (✓) the grounds for applying for an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with Circular 0052/2019

2.2a: pupils whose education up to 12 years of age (or up to and including the final year of primary education) was received outside the state and where they did not have an opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2b: pupils who were previously enrolled as a recognised pupil in primary school who are being re-enrolled after a period spent abroad, provided that at least three consecutive years have elapsed since the previous enrolment in the state and are at least 12 years of age on re-enrolment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2c: pupils who have least reached second class <u>and</u> present with significant and persistent learning difficulties <u>and</u> present with a Standardised Score in a discrete test at/below the 10th percentile in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2d: children of foreigners who are diplomatic or consular representatives in Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide detail of any supporting documenting 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 signature: _____
Date: _____
School Roll No.: _____

CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR 0052/2019

2.2c: Students who present with significant and persistent learning difficulties and present with a Standardised Score in a discrete test at/below the 10th percentile in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling

Name of school	Riverview Educate Together National School
School roll number	20494Q
Address of school	Limekiln Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12
Date of birth	
Student PPSN	

1. RECEIVING THE APPLICATION

a)	The date on which the school received the application is recorded on the form	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Receipt of the application has been acknowledged in writing and the parent(s)/guardian(s)/student have been informed that the application will be processed within 21 school days of date of receipt	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

2. CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION

a)	The written application and supporting documentation has been discussed with parent(s)/guardians(s) and the student on whose behalf of the application is made.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
b)	The parent(s)/guardian(s)/student have been advised of the next steps in processing the application.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
c)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student on whose behalf the application is made have been informed of any implications of an exemption from the study of Irish now and into the future.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
d)	The parent(s)/guardian(s)/student have been informed that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption may be granted.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
e)	The parent(s)/guardian(s)/student has been informed that where an application is refused that the school's decision may be appealed to the Irish Exemptions Appeal committee within 30 days from the date the decision of the school is notified in writing.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
f)	The student's support file has been reviewed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
g)	The student's SET team have been consulted	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

3.0 CONFIRMING A DECISION

An exemption from the study of Irish <u>is granted</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Or An exemption from the study of Irish is <u>not granted</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	
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Where an application for exemption is refused, please note reason(s)

4.0 COMMUNICATING AND RECORDING THE DECISION

	The outcome of the application has been confirmed in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the reason(s) for not granting the exemption where relevant.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Arrangements have been made for the retention of the application form and all supporting documentation, including a Copy of the Certificate of Exemption where applicable, and this checklist, in accordance with data protection law	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Principal Signature: _____

Date: _____



Riverview
Educate Together National School

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH CIRCULAR 0052/2019

Name of Pupil: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of School: _____ Roll No: _____

School address: _____

The above named pupil has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with the terms of Circular 0052/2019 and on the grounds of the following exceptional circumstances (Please tick as appropriate):

- 2.2a The pupil received his/her education up to 12 years of age (or up to and including the final year of primary education outside the state and where he/she did not have an opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.
- 2.2b The pupil was previously enrolled as a recognised pupil in a primary school and is being Enrolled after a period of not less than three consecutive years spent abroad and is 12 years of age on re-enrolment.
- 2.2c The pupil has at least reached second class and presents with significant learning difficulties that are persistent despite having had access to targeted intervention to support language and literacy learning in both Irish and English over time and presents with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word reading, Reading comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile.
- 2.2d The pupil is the child of a foreigner(s) who is/are diplomatic or consular representatives In Ireland

Possible implications of exemption from the study of Irish for my son/daughter have been explained to me.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 4

Exemptions from the Study of Irish
Frequently asked questions

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/132103/f10eb5b6-fb2c-4dc9-bcc8-6d7c33e8b973.pdf#page=null>

Appendix 5

Exemption from the study of Irish
Guidance on the selection of discrete tests of literacy attainment in English

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/38348/8b0a46b54daa4011992192b26edb2749.pdf#page=1>

Appendix 6

Department of Education guidance on Irish-Exemption

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/irish-exemption/?referrer=http://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Information/Irish-Exemption/#what-an-irish-exemption-is>