



## Irish Exemption Policy

### Introduction

This policy sets out the Leixlip ETNS school procedure in relation to the application and decision making process for an exemption from the study of Irish. The policy, its terms and conditions and the attached appendices were compiled in line with Department of Education and Skills Circulars [00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#) in relation to the granting of Irish Exemptions for pupils who meet the criteria under these circulars. This policy should be read in conjunction with Leixlip ETNS Draft English and Irish Language Policies.

### Rationale and Aims

This policy has been put in place to provide clarity and transparency for the school community on how Leixlip ETNS applies the terms of the Department of Education circulars [00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#) and associated [guidelines](#) in relation to the application for an exemption for the study of Irish.

### Relationship to the School Ethos

This policy is in keeping with the Leixlip ETNS core values of creating a warm, caring and inclusive learning environment which nurtures every child and supports them to reach their full potential. It reinforces the school's mission of celebrating diversity and building on the multicultural and plurilingual experiences of children within our school community.

With this in mind, Leixlip ETNS acknowledges that the individual needs and circumstances of pupils differ. While we encourage all pupils to access all areas of the curriculum, in rare and exceptional circumstances some pupils' needs are best met by granting an exemption from the study of Irish. In line with the school ethos, this decision will only be taken in partnership with the pupil and parents / guardians.

### Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of this policy are:

- To make provision for all children so that they can access an educational programme most suitable to their needs. In exceptional circumstances this would include an exemption from the study of Irish.
- To clarify for the school community the terms of the Department of Education and Skills circulars ([00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#)) on the exemption from the study of Irish.
- To state the exceptional circumstances in which an exemption from the study of Irish may be sought.
- To outline the process involved in applying for and granting an exemption from the study of Irish.
- To explain how the decision regarding an exemption is communicated to parents/guardians and to outline the appeals process.
- To clarify the process of recording and reporting Irish exemptions to the Department of Education and Skills and ensure compliance with data protection.

### Overview

- Irish is a compulsory subject in the primary school curriculum. In exceptional circumstances an exemption from the study of Irish may be sought by parents/guardians.
- An application for such an exemption can be made by parents/guardians of pupils who meet the criteria as set out by the Department of Education and Skills under the following circulars [00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#)
- Responsibility for the application of an exemption, and the implications that this may have on the child's future learning and potential employment opportunities, is that of the parents/guardians and not the school.
- There is no automatic entitlement to an exemption from the study of Irish. Parents/guardians will need to

formally apply to the school for an exemption.

- The decision on whether an exemption is granted is made by the school principal in consultation with the relevant school staff (e.g. class/SEN teachers) and ensuring that the application meets the criteria of Department of Education circulars.
- If granted the exemption from the study of Irish is applied throughout the pupil's attendance at primary school. It is the responsibility of the child's parents/guardians or the pupil themselves when aged 18 years or over to present the exemption certificate to schools (primary /post primary) or colleges that they may transition to.
- Any pupil who has been granted an Irish exemption has the option not to exercise the exemption granted or to continue to participate in aspects of Irish lessons that will be of benefit linguistically and culturally. As per Circular 0055/2022, this can be done 'without any loss of the right to exercise it at a future time'.
- A separate programme of work tailored to the child's specific learning needs will be put in place by the class teacher while the child is not in receipt of formal Irish language teaching.

### **Implications Associated with Granting an Irish Exemption**

Parents / guardians seeking an Irish exemption should inform themselves and become fully aware of the possible implications for their child in the future as a result of not studying Irish. Choice of third level education courses or careers may occur as a result of not studying Irish.

### **Exceptional Circumstances for Granting an Exemption from the Study of Irish**

In accordance with DE Circulars [00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#), there are five exceptional circumstances under which a pupil may be granted an exemption from the study of Irish. They are as follows:

#### **Category 2.2.1**

An exemption from the study of Irish may be granted to a pupil whose **education was received outside the State (for a minimum period of three consecutive years)** where he/she did not have opportunity to engage in the study of Irish **AND either (a) or (b)**

(a) who is **not less than 12 years** of age on the day of their enrolment or re-enrolment

**OR**

(b) who is enrolling following the completion of the full course of primary education recognised by another state.

#### **Category 2.2.2**

A pupil who experiences **significant literacy difficulties** which are an obstacle to their learning across the curriculum

An exemption from the study of Irish may be granted to a pupil:

(i) who has at least **reached second class**

**AND**

(ii) who presents with significant literacy difficulties that are **persistent despite having had access to a differentiated approach** to language and literacy learning in all subjects/across the curriculum and **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
- 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) who, at the time of the application for exemption presents with a **standardised score on a discrete test** in either **Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile**.

#### **Category 2.2.3**

A pupil who experiences a **high level of multiple and persistent needs** that are a significant barrier to the pupil's participation and engagement in their learning and school life

It is recognised that there is a small cohort of pupils who have a high level of multiple and persistent needs that are a significant barrier to their participation and engagement in their learning and school life. In the case of these pupils, consideration may need to be given to adjusting the range of learning experiences to ensure that their needs are met

and that they may engage purposefully in their learning in school. In very exceptional circumstances, this means that consideration may need to be given to exempting them from the study of Irish.

An exemption from the study of Irish may be granted to a pupil:

(i) who has at least **reached second class**

**AND**

(ii) who experiences **a high level of multiple and persistent needs** that are a very significant and continuing barrier to his/her participation and engagement in his/her learning and school life

**AND**

(iii) whose school has **substantial written evidence that these needs persist despite targeted and individualised Student Support Plans** to address those needs

**AND**

(iv) whose school has substantial written evidence that these individualised Student Support Plans have been implemented **over not less than two school years**, and have been monitored and reviewed by the school in collaboration with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil

**AND**

(v) who has been given every reasonable opportunity to participate in the learning of Irish in mainstream classes for as long as possible in keeping with the integrated approach in the *Primary Language Curriculum* and acknowledging that pupils at a young age adapt and improve over time

**AND**

(vi) the principal is satisfied that the granting of an exemption is in the overall best interests of the pupil concerned.

**Normally**, this will mean that the pupil will be **expected to engage with the study of Irish at least to the end of fifth class**. However, in very exceptional circumstances, where the principal is satisfied that an exemption is warranted to address the high level of multiple and persistent needs of the pupil, and certifies that all of the conditions in (i) to (vi) above have been met, it may be granted at an earlier stage, **but in no case may this be earlier than second class**.

#### **Category 2.2.4**

A pupil in a recognised **special school or class** or who was previously enrolled in a recognised special school or class or who has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school

(i) Where a pupil is currently enrolled in a recognised special school or special class in a mainstream school or who has previously been enrolled in a recognised special school or special class in a mainstream school and who is transitioning to mainstream provision, that **pupil is automatically entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish** without an application.

**OR**

(ii) Where a pupil has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school an application for an exemption from the study of Irish will be required

#### **Category 2.2.5**

**A pupil whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is a/are diplomatic or consular representative(s) of another country to Ireland irrespective of age or educational history**

An exemption from the study of Irish may be granted to a pupil whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is a/are diplomatic or consular representative(s) of another country to Ireland irrespective of age or educational history.

#### **Procedures for applying, granting and recording an exemption from the study of Irish**

1. A parent / guardian arranges a meeting with the class teacher/SEN teacher and either the SENCO or Principal to discuss whether an exemption from the study of Irish would meet the needs of their child. During the meeting parents/guardians will be informed of the strict criteria and procedures around the granting of Irish

exemptions. The implications of not studying Irish, including the possible restrictions that this may place on choice of choice of third level education courses or careers will also be discussed. Parents will also be advised to read the school's policy on Irish Exemptions paying particular attention to the steps involved in the application process. They will also be advised to read the following DE circulars relating to exemption from the study of Irish [00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#).

2. Should parents/guardians wish to proceed with an application for an Irish exemption, they must then make a formal application in writing using the application form at **Appendix 1**.
3. Following receipt of this written application, the school will mark the date of receipt of the application on the form and issue a written acknowledgement of receipt of application to the parent/guardian using the notification at **Appendix 2**.
4. As part of the application process a file will be compiled to inform the decision to grant or not grant an Irish exemption. The following information will be recorded in the file. The file will then be stored digitally on the child's Aladdin Record.
  - (a) Parent/Guardian completed and signed application form
  - (b) Leixlip ETNS written acknowledgement of receipt of application
  - (c) Evidence of differentiated approaches and interventions tried by the class teacher (see **Appendix 3**)
  - (d) Information from the child's support plan.
  - (e) Information from assessments carried out by the school and where relevant a sample of the pupil's free writing.
  - (f) Other relevant supporting information e.g. professional reports.
  - (g) A copy of the Certificate of Exemption from the Study of Irish (if granted).
5. In support of an application, testing may be carried out by the school to ascertain the current literacy attainment levels of the child. Please refer to **Appendix 4** for the **list of discrete tests** approved by the DE as outlined in the DE Notes on Testing requirements under Circulars 0054/2022 (Primary) and 0055/2022 (Post-Primary) issued in November 2022
6. The Principal in association with the SENCO will refer to the prescribed checklists (see **Appendix 5**) and make a decision with regard to the granting / not granting an exemption.
7. Where a decision is reached to grant an exemption, an official hardcopy of the Certificate of Exemption from the study of Irish will then be issued to the child's parents / guardians (see **Appendix 6**).
8. A hard copy of the certificate will be kept on file in the Principal's office. A soft copy of the Certificate will be uploaded electronically to the child's Aladdin file. POD will also be updated to record the child's Irish Exemption.
9. The application should be fully processed within 21 school days of receipt of application.
10. Where an application is refused, the principal must inform the applicant(s) in writing outlining the reasons for refusal and notifying the applicant(s) that the school's decision may be appealed to the Irish Exemptions Appeal Committee (IEAC) within 30 calendar days of the date of the written decision using the form at **Appendix 7**. Please refer to the following website for further information on the appeals process <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/services/exemption-from-the-study-of-irish/#appealing-a-schools-decision-not-to-grant-an-exemption>

### Appeals Process

Where an application for an exemption from the study of Irish is refused, a parent / guardian can appeal the school's decision to the Irish Exemption Appeal Committee (IEAC). The deliberations of the IEAC will focus solely on the process the school engaged in when reaching its decision. The IEAC will consider how the school followed the process as prescribed in Circulars [00554/2022](#) and [0052/2019](#) and [0053/2019](#) and the accompanying [Guidelines](#) for Primary Schools. An appeal must be lodged within 30 calendar days from the date the decision of the school not to grant an Irish exemption was notified in writing to parent(s)/guardian(s). The Irish Exemptions Appeal Form can be accessed at the following website

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/services/exemption-from-the-study-of-irish/#appealing-a-schools-decision-not-to-grant-an-exemption> or using the Appeals Form at **Appendix 7**.

### Data Protection

Information on the treatment of personal data relating to the Irish Exemption Indicator recorded on the Department of Education POD database is set out in the Privacy Notice for POD available here.

Retention by schools of any applications and supporting documentation provided in respect of applications for Irish

Exemptions will be in line with Data Protection law and the school's [Data Protection Policy](#) / protocols.

#### **Consultation and Communication of the Policy**

The policy was formulated in **January 2026** following consultation with staff, parents/guardians and the Board of Management of Leixlip ETNS. This policy should be read in conjunction with Leixlip ETNS Draft Policy on Primary Languages (English and Irish).

#### **Ratification and Review**

This policy was formally ratified by the Board of Management of Leixlip ETNS on 10/2/2026. It will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner if required to reflect changes to legislation, DE policy or procedures or other Leixlip ETNS school policies.

Signed:

Mary McDowell

Mary McDowell (Principal)

10/2/2026

Signed:

Sarah Hearne

Sarah Hearne (Chairperson, Board of Management)

## Appendix 1 - Application Form

<b>Application for Exemption from the Study of Irish Primary Schools</b> <b>For completion by the parent(s)/guardian(s)</b>		
<b>Name of Pupil</b>		
<b>Date of Birth</b>		
<b>Class</b>		
<b>Name of School</b>		
<p>I/We wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish on behalf of _____</p> <p>Please indicate (✓) the grounds for an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with Circulars <a href="#">00554/2022</a> and <a href="#">0052/2019</a> and <a href="#">0053/2019</a></p>		
<b>2.2.1</b>	<p>A pupil whose <b>education was received outside the State (for a minimum period of three consecutive years)</b></p> <p><b>AND either (a) or (b)</b></p> <p>(a) who is <b>not less than 12 years</b> of age on the day of their enrolment or re-enrolment</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>(b) who is enrolling following the completion of the full course of primary education recognised by another state.</p>	
<b>2.2.2</b>	<p>A pupil with persistent and documented <b>significant literacy difficulties</b> who has at least <b>reached second class and</b> with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the <b>10th percentile</b>.</p>	
<b>2.2.3</b>	<p>A pupil who has at least reached <b>second class</b> and who experiences a <b>high level of multiple and persistent needs</b> that persist <b>despite targeted interventions</b> (support plans) <b>over a period of not less than two years</b> and the Principal is satisfied that the granting of an exemption is in the overall best interests of the pupil <i>concerned</i>.</p>	



<b>2.2.4</b>	A pupil in a recognised <b>special school or special class</b> <u>or</u> who was previously enrolled in a recognised special school or class <u>or</u> who has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school	
<b>2.2.5</b>	A pupil whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is a/are diplomatic or consular representative(s) of another country to Ireland irrespective of age or educational history	

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

For the purpose of this application the documentation provided will be assessed, by relevant school personnel and other professionals where necessary, to determine whether there is grounds to grant an exemption from the study of Irish.

**Signed** (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For school use only**

**Date of receipt of application:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School roll number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix 2 - School's Letter of Acknowledgement of Receipt of Application for Irish Exemption**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Leixlip ETNS acknowledges receipt of your application for an Irish exemption on \_\_\_\_\_ (enter date school received the application here).

Your application will be processed in line with the school's Irish Exemption Policy and the outcome will be confirmed in writing in the next 21 days (from receipt of the application).

A signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption from the study of Irish may be granted.

Where an application is refused, the school's decision may be appealed to the Irish Exemptions Appeal Committee within 30 calendar days from the date the decision of the school was notified to the parent(s)/Guardian(s).

For more information on this appeals process, please refer to the School's Irish Exemption policy.

Yours Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal



### Appendix 3 - CHECKLIST TO RECORD THE DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH THAT WAS USED WITH THIS STUDENT IN IRISH OVER TIME

#### Record of Differentiated Approach / Irish Accommodations

Name of pupil:		Class:
<b>A.</b>	<b>Level</b> Teacher teaches to the middle and differentiates up and down  Same textbook but different expectations	Yes / No  Yes / No
<b>B.</b>	<b>Teaching Style</b> extra instruction over teaching repetition teacher models answers teacher scaffolds oral responses	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
<b>C.</b>	<b>Modifying Task</b> task simplified focus on oral Irish repetition and practice less output (written) expected teacher models written responses assistance with cloze exercises	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
<b>D.</b>	<b>Modifying Pace</b> expectation of less written output revision and repetition	Yes / No Yes / No
<b>E.</b>	<b>Following pupil's interests</b> e.g. Mé Féin Irish music and songs, activities and games	Yes / No Yes / No
<b>F.</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> teacher one to one pair/group work peer support / coaching	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
<b>G.</b>	<b>Resources</b>  online resources other	Yes / No Yes / No
<b>H.</b>	<b>Response required from pupil</b>  lower order questions in written work lower order questions answered orally	Yes / No Yes / No
<b>I.</b>	<b>Interventions</b>	

	focus on oral Irish	Yes / No
	same book but different expectations	Yes / No
	one to one teacher support	Yes / No
	peer tutoring	Yes / No

**Signed (class teacher):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 4 - List of Discrete Tests Approved by the DE for Irish Exemptions

Examples of discrete tests which schools may consider are included here. This list is not prescriptive or exhaustive but is intended to provide examples of suitable tests which schools may currently be using.

Word Reading	Reading Comprehension	Spelling
<b>WRAT5</b>	<b>WRAT 5</b>	<b>WRAT5</b>
<b>Word Reading</b>	<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	<b>Spelling</b>
<b>WIAT-III UK-T</b>	<b>WIAT-III UK-T</b>	<b>WIAT-III UK-T</b>
<b>Word Reading</b>	<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	<b>Spelling</b>
<b>Woodcock Johnson 4th. Edition: Tests of Achievement</b>	<b>Woodcock Johnson IV: Tests of Achievement</b>	<b>Woodcock Johnson IV: Tests of Achievement</b>
<b>Letter Word Identification</b>	<b>Passage Comprehension</b>	<b>Spelling</b>
<b>Woodcock Reading Mastery Test 3rd Edition (WRMT-III)</b>	<b>Woodcock Reading Mastery Test 3rd Edition (WRMT-III)</b>	<b>Graded Word Spelling Test, 3rd. Edition (GWST)</b>
<b>Word Identification</b>	<b>Passage Comprehension</b>	
<b>Diagnostic Reading Analysis – 3rd. Edition (DRA3ED)</b>	<b>Diagnostic Reading Analysis – 3rd. Edition (DRA3ED)</b>	<b>The Diagnostic Spelling Test (DST)</b>
<b>Reading Accuracy</b>	<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	
<b>York Assessment of Reading Comprehension – (YARC) Single Word Reading Test (SWRT)</b>	<b>York Assessment of Reading Comprehension – (YARC) (has both primary and post-primary norms)</b>	<b>British Spelling Test Series 2nd. Edition (BSTS2)</b>
<b>Hodder Oral Reading Test</b>		<b>Drumcondra Primary Spelling Test (DPST)</b>
<b>Single Word Reading</b>		
<b>Lucid Assessment System for Schools (LASS) - Reading</b>		<b>Lucid Assessment System for Schools (LASS) - Spelling</b>

## Appendix 5 - Checklists for processing applications

### CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR 0054/2022

**2.2.1 A pupil whose education was received outside the State (for a minimum period of three consecutive years)**

**AND either (a) or (b)**

**(a) who is not less than 12 years of age on the day of their enrolment or re-enrolment**

**OR**

**(b) who is enrolling following the completion of the full course of primary education recognised by another state.**

<b>Name of school</b>	
<b>School roll number</b>	
<b>Name of pupil</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>PPS Number</b>	

#### 1. RECEIVING THE APPLICATION

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

#### 2. CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION

		Yes	No
a)	The written application and supporting documentation have been discussed with parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil.		
b)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been advised of the next steps in processing the application.		

c)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil have been informed of any implications of an exemption from the study of Irish now and into the future.		
d)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption will be granted.		
e)	The parent(s)/ guardian(s) has/have 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.		
f)	The arrangements (as per Section 6 of the Guidelines), in the case of an exemption being granted, have been explained to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil.		
g)	Relevant evidence about the pupil's previous enrolment (including dates) and attendance at a school(s) outside the State has been examined.		
h)	The pupil's educational experience and/or progress has been considered.		
3.	<b>CONFIRMING A DECISION</b>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The above named pupil is not less than 12 years of age		
b)	At least three consecutive years have elapsed since the above named pupil was last enrolled in a school in this State.		
c)	<p><b>An exemption from the study of Irish <u>is granted</u></b></p> <p><b>or</b></p> <p><b>An exemption from the study of Irish <u>is not granted</u></b></p>		

Where an application for exemption is refused, please note reason(s).

**4. COMMUNICATING AND RECORDING THE DECISION**

		Yes	No
a)	The outcome of the application has been confirmed in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the reason(s) for not granting an exemption where relevant.		
b)	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.		

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR 0054/2022**

**2.2.2 - A pupil who has at least reached second class and presents with significant and persistent literacy difficulties and presents with a standardised score in a discrete test at/below the 10th percentile in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling.**

<b>Name of school</b>	
<b>School roll number</b>	
<b>Name of pupil</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>PPS Number</b>	

**1. RECEIVING THE APPLICATION**

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

**2. CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION**

		Yes	No
a)	The written application and supporting documentation have been discussed with parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil.		
b)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been advised of the next steps in processing the application.		
c)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil have been informed of any implications of an exemption from the study of Irish now and into the future.		



d)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption will be granted.		
e)	The parent(s)/ guardian(s) has/have 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.		
f)	The arrangements (as per Section 6 of the Guidelines), in the case of an exemption being granted, have been explained to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil.		
g)	The pupil's Student Support File has been reviewed.		
h)	The pupil's class teacher and SET team has been consulted.		
3.	<b>CONFIRMING A DECISION</b>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The above named pupil:  has at least reached second class  and		
	presents with significant literacy difficulties that are persistent despite having access to a differentiated approach to language and literacy in both Irish and English over time as evidenced in the Student Support File including  regular reviews of learning needs as part of an ongoing cycle of assessment;  target setting;  evidence-informed intervention and review, including test scores (Word Reading, Reading Comprehension, Spelling, other scores of language/literacy) at key points of review  and		
	at the time of application for exemption, the above named pupil presents with a Standardised Score on a discrete test in either Word Reading or Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile		

<b>b)</b>	<p><b>An exemption from the study of Irish is granted</b></p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>An exemption from the study of Irish is <u>not granted</u></b></p>
-----------	---

**Where an application for exemption is refused, please note reason(s).**

<b>4.</b>	<b>COMMUNICATING AND RECORDING THE DECISION</b>
-----------	---

		Yes	No
<b>a)</b>	The outcome of the application has been confirmed in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the reason(s) for not granting an exemption where relevant.		
<b>b)</b>	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.		

**Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR 0054/2022**

**2.2.3 - A pupil who experiences a high level of multiple and persistent needs that are a significant barrier to the pupil's participation and engagement in their learning and school life**

<b>Name of school</b>	
<b>School roll number</b>	
<b>Name of pupil</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>PPS Number</b>	

**1. RECEIVING THE APPLICATION**

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

**2. CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION**

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The written application and supporting documentation have been discussed with parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil.		
b)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been advised of the next steps in processing the application.		
c)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil have been informed of any implications of an exemption from the study of Irish now and into the future.		

d)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption will be granted.		
e)	The parent(s)/ guardian(s) has/have 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.		
f)	The arrangements (as per Section 6 of the Guidelines), in the case of an exemption being granted, have been explained to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil.		
g)	The pupil's Student Support File has been reviewed.		
h)	The pupil's class teacher and SET team has been consulted.		
<b>3. CONFIRMING A DECISION</b>			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The above named pupil:  has at least reached second class  and		
	experiences a high level of multiple and persistent needs that are a very significant and continuing barrier to his/her participation and engagement in his/her learning and school life  and		
	whose school has substantial written evidence that these needs persist despite targeted and individualised Student Support Plans to address those needs  and		
	whose school has substantial written evidence that these individualised Student Support Plans have been implemented over not less than two school years, and have been monitored and reviewed by the school in collaboration with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil  and		

	<p>who has been given every reasonable opportunity to participate in the learning of Irish in mainstream classes for as long as possible in keeping with the integrated approach in the Primary Languages Curriculum and acknowledging that pupils at a young age adapt and improve over time</p> <p>and</p>		
	<p>the Principal is satisfied that the granting of an exemption is in the overall best interests of the pupil concerned</p>		
b)	<p>An exemption from the study of Irish is granted</p> <p>or</p> <p>An exemption from the study of Irish is <u>not granted</u></p>		
<p>Where an application for exemption is refused, please note reason(s).</p>			
<p><b>4. COMMUNICATING AND RECORDING THE DECISION</b></p>			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	<p>The outcome of the application has been confirmed in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the reason(s) for not granting an exemption where relevant.</p>		
b)	<p>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.</p>		
<p>Principal: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>			

**CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR 0054/2022**

**2.2.4 - A pupil has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school**

<b>Name of school</b>			
<b>School roll number</b>			
<b>Name of pupil</b>			
<b>Date of birth</b>			
<b>PPS Number</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>RECEIVING THE APPLICATION</b>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The date on which the school received the application is recorded on the form.		
b)	Receipt of the application has been acknowledged in writing and the parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that the application will be processed within 21 school days of date of receipt.		
<b>2.</b>	<b>CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION</b>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The written application and supporting documentation have been discussed with parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil.		
b)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been advised of the next steps in processing the application.		
c)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil have been informed of any implications of an exemption from the study of Irish now and into the future.		

d)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption will be granted.		
e)	The parent(s)/ guardian(s) has/have 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.		
f)	The arrangements (as per Section 6 of the Guidelines), in the case of an exemption being granted, have been explained to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil.		
3.	<b>CONFIRMING A DECISION</b>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The above named pupil has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school.		
b)	<b>An exemption from the study of Irish is granted</b> <b>or</b> <b>An exemption from the study of Irish is <u>not granted</u></b>		
Where an application for exemption is refused, please note reason(s).			
4.	<b>COMMUNICATING AND RECORDING THE DECISION</b>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The outcome of the application has been confirmed in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the reason(s) for not granting an exemption where relevant.		



<b>b)</b>	<b>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.</b>		
<p><b>Principal:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>			

**CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR 0054/2022**

**2.2.5 - A pupil whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is a/are diplomatic or consular representatives of another country in Ireland**

<b>Name of school</b>			
<b>School roll number</b>			
<b>Name of pupil</b>			
<b>Date of birth</b>			
<b>PPS Number</b>			
<b>1. RECEIVING THE APPLICATION</b>			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The date on which the school received the application is recorded on the form.		
b)	Receipt of the application has been acknowledged in writing and the parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that the application will be processed within 21 school days of date of receipt.		
<b>2. CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION</b>			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The written application and supporting documentation have been discussed with parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil.		
b)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been advised of the next steps in processing the application.		
c)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil have been informed of any implications of an exemption from the study of Irish now and into the future.		

d)	The parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have been informed that a signed Certificate of Exemption will issue where a decision is reached that an exemption will be granted.		
e)	The parent(s)/ guardian(s) has/have 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.		
f)	The arrangements (as per Section 6 of the Guidelines), in the case of an exemption being granted, have been explained to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil.		
<b>3. CONFIRMING A DECISION</b>			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The above named pupil is a child of a diplomatic or consular representative of another country in Ireland.		
b)	An exemption from the study of Irish is granted  or  An exemption from the study of Irish is <u>not granted</u>		
Where an application for exemption is refused, please note reason(s).			
<b>4. COMMUNICATING AND RECORDING THE DECISION</b>			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a)	The outcome of the application has been confirmed in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the reason(s) for not granting an exemption where relevant.		

b)	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.		
----	--	--	--

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 6 - CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH

### CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE STUDY OF IRISH

Name of pupil:		School Stamp
Date of Birth:		
Name of school:		
School Address:		
School Roll Nu:		

The above pupil has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with the terms of Circular 0054/2022 and on the grounds of the following circumstance (please tick ✓ as appropriate).

2.2.1	A pupil whose education was received outside the State (for a minimum period of three consecutive years) <b>AND either (a) or (b)</b> (a) who is <b>not less than 12 years</b> of age on the day of their enrolment or re-enrolment <b>OR</b> (b) who is enrolling following the completion of the full course of primary education recognised by another state.	
2.2.2	A pupil with persistent and documented <b>significant literacy difficulties</b> who has at least <b>reached second class</b> and with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the <b>10th percentile</b> .	
2.2.3	A pupil who has at least reached <b>second class</b> and who experiences a <b>high level of multiple and persistent needs</b> that persist <b>despite targeted interventions</b> (support plans) <b>over a period of not less than two years</b> and the Principal is satisfied that the granting of an exemption is in the overall best interests of the pupil <i>concerned</i> .	
2.2.4	A pupil in a recognised <b>special school or special class</b> <u>or</u> who was previously enrolled in a recognised special school or class <u>or</u> who has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school	
2.2.5	A pupil whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is a/are diplomatic or consular representative(s) of another country to Ireland irrespective of age or educational history	

Signed (ParentGuardian): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (ParentGuardian): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Principal): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Please keep this certificate safe as it is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that a copy of this certificate is made available to any school to which their child enrolls.

## IRISH EXEMPTIONS APPEAL FORM (PRIMARY)

**Circular 0054/2022**

**Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS**

<b>Name of pupil</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>Name of school</b>	
<b>School address</b>	
<b>School roll number</b>	
<b>Name of Appellant</b>	
<b>Relationship to pupil</b>	
<b>Address of Appellant</b>	
<b>Email of Appellant</b>	

**Please indicate the sub-paragraph in Circular 0054/2022 on which the application to the school was based.**

**2.2.1(a)** The pupil is not less than 12 years of age on the day of their enrolment or re-enrolment whose education was received outside the State (for a minimum period of three consecutive years) where he/she did not have the opportunity to engage in the study of Irish.

**2.2.1(b)** The pupil's education was received outside the State (for a minimum period of three consecutive years) where he/she did not have opportunity to engage in the study of Irish and who is enrolling following the completion of the full course of primary education recognised by another State.

<p><b>2.2.2</b> The pupil has at least reached second class and experiences significant literacy difficulties which are an obstacle to their learning across the curriculum and which are persistent despite having had access to a differentiated approach to language and literacy learning in all subjects/across the curriculum and 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.</p>	
<p><b>2.2.3</b> The pupil has at least reached second class and experiences a high level of multiple and persistent needs, that persist despite targeted and individualised Student Support Plans to address those needs (over not less than two years) and which are a significant barrier to the pupil's participation and engagement in their learning and school life and who have been given every reasonable opportunity to participate in the learning of Irish in mainstream classes for as long as possible and the Principal is satisfied that the granting of an exemption is in the overall best interests of the pupil <i>concerned</i>.</p>	
<p><b>2.2.4</b> The pupil has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school.</p>	
<p><b>2.2.5</b> The pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s) is a/are diplomatic or consular representative(s) of another country to Ireland irrespective of age or educational history.</p>	
<p><b>Date of application to the school for an exemption from the study of Irish:</b></p> <p><b>Date of written confirmation of the school's decision not to grant an exemption:</b></p>	
<p><b>Please set out the specific grounds on which you are challenging the school's decision not to grant an exemption from the study of Irish.</b></p>          <p><b>(Additional pages may be added for this section)</b></p>	
<p><b>Signed:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>	



Please return this Form to: Irish Exemption Appeals, Department of Education, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co Westmeath or by email to [IrishExemptionAppeal@Education.Gov.ie](mailto:IrishExemptionAppeal@Education.Gov.ie)

All personal data collected on this form is in accordance with the law on Data Protection and will only be used for the purposes of the Appeal regarding the individual pupil.

Further information in relation to the Departments policy on Data Protection is available on the Department's website here: [gov.ie - Data Protection \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Data Protection (www.gov.ie))

Outcome of Appeal (For Official Use only):