



Scoil Mhuire Moynalty

Exemption from Irish Policy

Introduction:

This policy was drafted by staff and Board of Management (BoM) of Scoil Mhuire Moynalty in response to changes in special educational provisions.

Rationale:

Circular 12/96 requires that all children with specific learning difficulties, general learning disabilities and/or sensory impairments are entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish

In recent years, many foreign national children are seeking enrolment into primary schools throughout Ireland. Circular 12/96 also requires that many of these 'New Irish' may be entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish

Relationship to the school Ethos:

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement of the school, which strives to enhance the self esteem of all through providing for the intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of all.

Aims and Objectives:

- To allow for pupils of 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

Policy Content:

Before granting an exemption from Irish, the school requires evidence of a specific or general learning disability from a qualified psychologist or in the case of a child with a sensory impairment, from a qualified medical practitioner. Children of foreign nationals who are resident in the country will also be granted an exemption from Irish, particularly if their grasp of the English language is limited.

Procedures:

- The school requires a written application for exemption from the parents/guardians of the particular child. It must be accompanied by documentary evidence such as age, previous schooling etc. and a psychologist's report (if relevant).
- Parents should be made aware that the pupil not having an Irish qualification may restrict his/her employment opportunities in the future.
- The principal, in consultation with staff, class teachers and BoM will grant an exemption if warranted and will present a certificate of exemption to the parents in accordance with Circular 12/96. *(See Appendix 1)*
- Note: The school no longer needs to send a copy of the exemption form to the DES. The school grants the exemption and keeps the form on file.

Roles and Responsibilities:

In-school Management, class teachers and BoM will contribute to the implementation of school procedures.

Success Criteria:

- Seamless integration of non-nationals and pupils with learning difficulties
- Happy school learning environment
- Positive teacher/parental feedback

Implementation

This policy was originally drafted in 2008 and subsequently reviewed in 2010 & 2012.

This updated policy supersedes previous policies and is effective from September 2016

Ratification & Communication

This policy was reviewed and updated in collaboration with all staff during May & June 2016. This policy was subsequently circulated to all parents and BOM members for consideration.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in November 2016. It will be available through our school website and/or administration office.

Review

This policy will be reviewed and amended as necessary by means of a whole school collaborative process.

Ratification of Policy

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on the _____

Signed _____
Fr. Joseph McEvoy
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date _____

Signed _____
Denise Ward
Principal

Date _____



Scoil Mhuire Moynalty

Exemption from Irish Policy *Appendix 1*

Certificate of Exemption

Name of school: Scoil Mhuire
Address: Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath. A82 YV20
Roll Number: 17213L

Name of pupil: _____

Date of birth: _____

Name and address of psychologist: _____

Date of report: _____

Name & address of medical specialist: _____

Date of report: _____

I certify that the above-named pupil has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish in primary schools in accordance with the terms of Circular 12/96.

The exemption has been granted on the following grounds:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Principal Teacher