

# Policy on the Exemption from Irish

## Introduction:

This policy was drafted by staff and Board of Management.

## Rationale:

Many children of foreign extraction are seeking enrolment into the school in recent years. Circular 12/96 states that many of these may be entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish as would children with specific learning difficulties, general learning disabilities.

## 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 inclusively within the school.
- To enable children of all abilities to access the curriculum in a learner friendly manner.

## Policy Content:

Before granting an exemption in Irish, the school requires evidence of a specific or general learning disability from a qualified psychologist or 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 on enrolment.

## **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 psychologists report (if relevant).
- The principal in consultation with staff, class teachers and Board of Management will grant an exemption if warranted and will present a certificate of exemption to the parents in accordance with Circular 12/96.
- Information regarding exemptions is forwarded to the Dept. of Education and Science along with the annual statistical returns in October each year.

## **Roles / Responsibilities:**

In-school Management, class teachers and Board of Management 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.

## **Review:**

This policy will be reviewed in 2011 or when and if directed by the DES.