

CWETNS Gaeilge Policy

Introduction:

The teachers at CWETNS put this new policy together based on the aims and teaching methods of the Gaeilge Curriculum. It was created in 2017. All teachers were involved in its writing.

Why there is a need for this plan:

- So we will have definite directions in teaching and using Irish
- So there will be continuity and development from class to class
- So we will have a high level of Irish as a teaching staff
- To create a context for using Irish in the school
- To give information to new people who will be workin in the school
- To help us to implement the curriculum in relation to the aims below

Aims:

- To promote the use of Irish as a language of communication
- To foster a positive attitude towards the language as well as interest and desire to speak it
- To make learning Irish enjoyable
- To develop listening and communication skills of the child to foster in them the confidence to use Irish
- To nurture reading and writing skills in the child at levels suitable to them and for this school
- To develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in an integrated manner
- To foster language awareness and cultural awareness
- To develop a social, cognitive, emotional, imaginative and aesthetic awareness in our children
- To enrich the fluency and accuracy in pronunciation of the child's language

The plan in the context of school:

The vision we have in this school is that the children learn the language effectively and with enjoyment and as a result they will be able to use the language communicatively. Canal Way Educate Together National School is located almost in the city center, Dublin 8. We have around two hundred pupils and twelve teachers on staff this year. There is very little Irish spoken in the area. So our aim is that teachers try to speak in Irish in everyday communication as often as possible and in this way to encourage kids to follow this example by using Irish informally. We are a relatively new school that was founded in 2013. We have a high proportion of international children. Because of this we have an additional focus on the teaching of English in this school. Also we acknowledge it is difficult for parents, who speak very little or no Irish, to support the children learning the language.

Informal Irish: School Plan

For natural use of Irish in the classroom, the following list has been put together by us:

The Themes

The following ten themes will be used in each class in the school:

1. Myself
2. At home
3. TV
4. The weather
5. Food
6. The school
7. Shopping
8. Hobbies
9. Clothing
10. Special Occasions

The Strands of the Curriculum:

Teachers in Canal Way ETNS will plan Irish Lessons with the following strands to the forefront of their minds:

Listening

The importance of listening in language learning. The hearing is the language key skills to children as they come to primary school. So very important a period are the early years of school. The children listen to the language informally in class when the teacher is managing the class.. They hear the language as well when teachers are communicating in class and around the school. It is important to use informal language in normal day courses to promote Irish. It emphasizes listening skills during the lesson as well - formal listening. Teachers will use language games where children use and develop this skill.

Speaking

The teachers emphasize speaking Irish. We want kids to be able to simply talk about the topics that interest them and that they can essentially develop social relationships through Irish. In order to achieve this the children are encouraged to speak in Irish informally as often possible during the day and to speak formally when class is held. Also, there will be particular emphasis on pair work in the school to give opportunities to develop children's speaking.

Reading

Preparatory work for reading will be done in infant classes with rhymes, language games, songs and picture books, stories, and the big books. Added to this in 1st class will be a print rich area (in Irish) and interactive reading. Reading will officially start in 2nd class. Reading give knowledge, pleasure and enjoyment to the reader, so, along with the class reading books we will be adding Irish language books in the library. We will be looking to source interesting books and ones that are suitable for each class level.

Writing

Writing will start in 2nd class, copying phrases and sentences based on the theme being studied. Writing goes forward with writing tasks e.g. articles based on personal news. We understand the need to practise functional and creative writing. Work begins on spelling informally in 2nd class and continues formally from 3rd class. Learning grammar will happen

from the start but will be done formally from 2nd class. While learning grammar there will always be an emphasis on practical use and communication.

Emphasis should be placed on learning vocabulary and grammar in introduction, the use of the language in the development (chat, role playing, language games, etc.) and to secure skills in the review.

The programs used in our school:

Bua na Cainte is used to 2nd class and Béal beo from 3rd to 6th class. There are enjoyable rhymes, songs and many other things available for use with these programs. However, we must emphasize communication as stated above in this plan. Teachers will use these programs only at the beginning and end of each lesson. The heart of the lesson (the communication period) should be made up of pair or group work.

Homework

We give homework in Irish. We acknowledge difficulties with Irish homework due to lack of knowledge on the part of parents. Each teacher will try their best to clarify the homework so that the student can work at home without help.

Students with educational needs

We will give every help and encouragement to students with educational problems by teaching without pressure and in an enjoyable manner and one that encourages confidence in the students.

Timetable for Irish

There must be three and a half hours each week teaching the Irish language from 1st class and two and a half hours each week teaching of Irish in the infant classes. There should be informal Irish taught throughout the day in school, as outlined above.

Integration with Other Subjects:

Teachers will try to use Irish as often as possible in other subjects. Teachers will have the freedom to make their own choice, eg Art, P.E.

How to assess the ability of the child and the effectiveness of this policy

- Teacher observation of the child
- tasks and tests designed by the teachers
- Homework
- Diagnostic tests
- Attitude and reports from parents
- Assessment of secondary schools
- School Inspector's Report

This Policy was ratified by the BOM on _____

Review Date _____

Chairperson _____

Principal _____