



Information for pupils and students



The language used in Irish Schools

- In schools in Ireland we use two languages: English and Irish.
- You might expect to always hear the teachers and the pupils/students speaking English but sometimes the main language spoken is Irish.
- Most of our schools teach all the subjects using English and it is the language used between teachers and learners.
- In these schools, Irish is a subject that is studied as one of the subjects in the curriculum.
- If you are in a primary school, you may find yourself learning Irish for part of your daily lessons, which can help you learn about our culture and heritage.

Schools in the *Gaeltacht*



Source: www.pobal.ie

- The map on the left highlights areas in green where Irish is used as the main spoken language on a daily basis in the local community and schools in these areas.
- These areas are known as the *Gaeltacht*. Schools in these areas teach all subjects, except English, through Irish.
- Teachers and pupils/students use the Irish language to communicate inside and outside the classroom.
- In other areas outside the *Gaeltacht*, there are schools known as *Gaelscoileanna* (primary schools) and *Gaelcholáistí* (post-primary schools) where Irish is used as the language of communication and subjects are taught through Irish.



General information

- Schools will tell you if English or Irish is the main language used in the school. As a pupil/student, you will be able to decide whether you wish to attend an Irish or English-speaking school.
- If the school that you attend is in a *Gaeltacht* region, you will study many of your subjects through Irish.
- If the first school that you attend when you start school in Ireland is a post-primary school, you probably will not study Irish but you will learn about our cultural heritage through other subjects.