



**LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL,
CLONMEL**

Procedures for Exemption from the Study of Irish

17th October 2022

Purpose of this procedure:

The purpose of this procedure is to set out the arrangements for the exemption of students from the study of Irish in Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel, in compliance with circular 0055/2022. The Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools (2004) and the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) set out the list of subjects to be studied by students in Junior and Senior Cycle. Irish and English are the languages in which schools must provide instruction for all Junior and Senior Cycle students. Loreto Clonmel is required to record data on students who are exempt from the study of Irish and the reason for the exemption.

Categories of students eligible:

The grounds for making an application for exemption from the study of Irish are listed in Section 2.2 of Circular 0055/2022 which sets out the exceptional circumstances in which consideration may be given to granting a student an exemption from the study of Irish. These are:

2.2.1 A student moving from a different country without previous experience of learning the Irish language

An exemption from the study of Irish may be granted to a student 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.

2.2.2 A student 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 student:

(i) 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

(ii) 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.

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

It is recognised that there is a small cohort of students 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 students, 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 student:

(i) 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

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

AND

(iii) 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 student

AND

(iv) 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 to language skills development and the communicative approach underpinning the Specification for Junior Cycle Irish (L2) and the Leaving Certificate Syllabuses for Irish.

AND

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

2.2.4 A student 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 student 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 student is automatically entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish without an application.

OR

(ii) Where a student 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.

Procedures for making an application for an Irish Exemption:

1. A parent/guardian on behalf of a student or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, must make an application in writing to the principal of the school for a Certificate of Exemption from the study of Irish.
2. The school staff shall mark the date of receipt of the application on the application form and issue an acknowledgement to the parent(s)/guardian(s), or the student as relevant, upon receipt of the application.
3. At the earliest opportunity a school official should contact the applicant(s) and:
 - discuss the written application with the applicant(s) and confirm the sub-paragraph on which the application is based (as outlined in section 2.2 above) N.B. If a parent/guardian, or the student where he/she is the applicant, does not confirm the sub-paragraph under which the application is based then the application is null and void and no further processing of the application will take place. Only criteria contained in this Circular can be considered as grounds for an exemption from the study of Irish and no other exceptional circumstances can be considered.
 - advise the applicant(s) of the steps involved in processing the application.
 - inform the parent(s)/guardian(s)/student and the student on whose behalf an application is made of the implications of an exemption from the study of Irish for the student while in post-primary education and into the future. An appointment is made with the Guidance Counsellor to discuss these implications.
4. The application should be fully processed, and the outcome confirmed in writing within 21 school days of receipt of the application.
5. Where a decision is reached that an exemption from the study of Irish may be granted a signed Certificate of Exemption will be issued to the parent(s)/guardian(s)/student and a copy will be held by the school in the student's file.



LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, CLONMEL

Application for Exemption from the Study of Irish

For completion by

- the parent(s)/guardian(s) on behalf of a student OR
- a student who has reached 18 years of age

Name of Student

Date of Birth

Year Group

I/We wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish on behalf of _____

I _____ (student who has reached 18 years) wish to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish.

Please indicate with a tick (✓) the ground for applying for an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with Circular 0055/2022

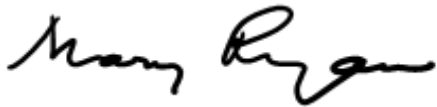
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|-----------------|---|--|
| 2.2.1(a) | The student is not less than 12 years of age on the day of their enrolment or re-enrolment whose education was received outside the state and where they did not have the opportunity to engage in the study of Irish. | |
| 2.2.1(b) | The student's education was received outside the state (for a minimum of period of 3 consecutive years) where he/she did not have the opportunity to engage in the study of Irish or who is enrolling following the completion of the full course of primary education recognised by another state. | |
| 2.2.2 | The student 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 present with a standardised score of a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10 th percentile. | |
| 2.2.3 | The student experiences a high level of multiple and persistent needs , that persist despite targeted and individualized Student Support Plans to address those needs (over not less than two years) and which are a significant barrier to the student'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 student concerned. | |
| 2.2.4 | The student 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. | |

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

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |

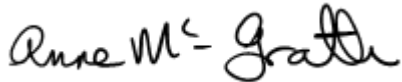
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|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| I/we the undersigned understand that documentation provided may be reviewed for the purpose of processing this application by relevant school personnel and other professionals where necessary. | | | |
| Signed: | | | Date: |
| Signed: | | | Date: |
| <u>FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY</u> | Date of Receipt of Application | | School Roll Number 65330M |
| Signed by Principal | | | Date |

This procedure was read by the Board of Management on the date noted below.



Signed: Ms. Mary Ryan, Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 17/10/2022



Signed: Ms. Anne Mc Grath, Principal

Date: 17/10/2022



LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, CLONMEL

Certificate of Exemption from the study of Irish

Name of Student:

Date of Birth :

Name of School: Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel

Roll Number : 65330M

School Address: Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

The above-named student has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish in accordance with the terms of Circular 0053/2019 and on the grounds of the following exceptional circumstance (please tick as appropriate):

2.2.1(a) The student 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 student'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.

2.2.2 The student 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.

2.2.3 The student 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 student'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 student concerned.

2.2.4(ii) The student 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

The possible implications of exemption from the study of Irish have been explained to me.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Student

The possible implications of exemption from the study of Irish for the student named above have been explained to me.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian Parent/Guardian Date

Signed: _____ Date: _____
School Principal