

Ag Tacú le do Pháiste

Oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus
riachtanais speisialta oideachais

**Leabhrán eolais do thuismitheoirí
agus cúramóirí**

Supporting your Child

Irish-medium education and
special educational needs

Booklet for parents and carers



Scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge

Is éard is scoil lán-Ghaeilge (Gaelscoil) nó scoil Ghaeltachta ann ná scoil ina ndéantar na hábhair uilig, seachas an Béarla, a theagasc trí Ghaeilge. Is í Gaeilge an teanga chumarsáide sna scoileanna seo, labhraítear í sa seomra ranga agus sa chlós súgartha. Is córas é seo a dtugtar 'tumoideachas' air, a ligeann do pháistí Gaeilge líofa a shealbhú. Leanann an córas seo an curaclam náisiúnta atá leagtha amach ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna.

Is féidir le gach dalta tairbhe a bhaint as oideachas lán-Ghaeilge, beag beann ar leibhéal cumais, stádas socheachnamáíoch, cúlra teangeolaíoch, cultúrtha nó reiligiúnach an dalta. I measc na mbuntáistí a bhaineann le hoideachas lán-Ghaeilge tá líofacht in dhá theanga, an cumas teangacha eile a shealbhú níos éasca agus an cumas bheith ag machnamh ar bhealach atá solúbtha. Chomh maith leis seo, glacann na páistí seo níos fearr le héagsúlacht agus bíonn ardmheas acu orthu féin.

Tá ról tábhachtach ag tuismitheoirí i saol laethúil na scoile. Mar thuismitheoirí, is féidir libh cabhrú le bhur bpáistí cur chuige ullmhaithe i leith na foghlama a fhorbairt. Má léiríonn tú spéis i saol do pháiste sa scoil lán-Ghaeilge, agus má léiríonn tú cultúr na scoile sa bhaile, is féidir muinín agus caidreamh oscailte a chothú idir tú féin agus an scoil. Cabhróidh sé seo libh má thagann fadhbanna chun cinn ar scoil.

Mar thuismitheoirí a bhfuil páiste agaibh i scoil lán-Ghaeilge, is féidir libh neart rudaí a dhéanamh le do pháiste a spreagadh chun Gaeilge líofa a bheith aige nó aici, fiú mura bhfuil mórán Gaeilge agatsa. Níl Gaeilge mar theanga an tí ag formhór na ndaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Is é an rud is fearr is féidir le tuismitheoir a dhéanamh ná léiriú dá p(h)áiste go bhfuil dearcadh dearfach acu faoin bpáiste a bheith ag freastal ar scoil lán-Ghaeilge nó scoil Ghaeltachta, agus iad ag éirí líofa sa Ghaeilge. Cabhróidh sé go mór le do pháiste má léiríonn tú go bhfuil tú bródúil as nó aisti agus má léiríonn tú spéis sna rudaí atá á ndéanamh ag an bpáiste ar scoil.

Baineann buntáistí sóisialta, mothúchánacha agus oideachais le húsáid na Gaeilge mar theanga na scoile agus mar theanga an tí, más í Gaeilge príomhtheanga do pháiste. Ar an lámh eile, baineann buntáistí leis an dátheangachas más é an Béarla príomhtheanga nó an t-aon teanga atá ar a t(h)oil ag do pháiste. Is féidir le páistí a thagann ó theaghlaigh nach í Gaeilge ná Béarla teanga an tí s'acu tairbhe a bhaint as tumoideachas lán-Ghaeilge chomh maith.

Irish-medium schools

An Irish-medium school ‘Gaelscoil’ or Gaeltacht school is a school where all subjects, apart from English, are taught through Irish and Irish is the language of communication in the school. This means that Irish is the spoken language both inside and outside the classroom, and in the playground. This is a system called ‘immersion education’ and it enables children to become fluent in Irish naturally, while following the national curriculum as set by the Department of Education and Skills.

All students can benefit from an Irish-medium education, regardless of their level of ability, their socio-economic status, or their religious, cultural or linguistic background. Some of the benefits available to students include developing fluency and literacy in two languages, greater ease in learning other languages, greater ability to think in a flexible way and increased acceptance of diversity, along with a high sense of self-esteem.

Parents have an important role to play in everyday school life. As parents, you can help your child to develop an organised approach to learning. Taking an interest in your child’s day at an Irish-medium school, and reflecting the ethos at home, builds trust and an open relationship between you and the school. This will serve you both well if any problems arise at school.

For parents of a child in an Irish-medium school, a lot can be done to encourage your child to become fluent in Irish even when you have little or no Irish language skills. The majority of children in Irish-medium schools outside of the Gaeltacht do not have Irish as one of their home languages. The best way a parent can help is to show your children that you are positive about them going to an Irish-medium or Gaeltacht school and about them becoming fluent in Irish. Letting your child know that you are proud of them and interested in what they’re doing in school will be a big help to them.

Where Irish is your child’s dominant language, there are important social, emotional and educational benefits to using Irish as both the home and school language. Equally, where English is the child’s only or dominant language, there are many benefits in them becoming bilingual. Children whose home language is not Irish or English may also benefit from Irish-medium immersive education.

Riachtanais speisialta oideachais

Is féidir le páistí riachtanais speisialta oideachais (RSO) bheith acu mar gheall ar na riochtaí seo a leanas: daille, lagú radhairc, bodhairc, allaíre, fadhb mheabhairshláinte, míchumas foghlama nó riocht eile a chiallaíonn go bhfoghlaímíonn an páiste ar bhealach atá éagsúil leis an gcaoi a bhfoghlaímíonn páistí eile.

Tá neart láidreachtaí, buanna agus cumais ag páistí a bhfuil RSO acu. Tá oideachas mar cheart ag gach páiste, iad siúd a bhfuil RSO acu san áireamh. Ba cheart do gach páiste oideachas a fháil atá oiriúnach dá riachtanais, oideachas a ligeann dóibh barr a gcumais a bhaint amach. Is féidir teacht ar leabhrán eolais atá foilsithe ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta do thuismitheoirí a bhfuil páistí nó daoine óga le RSO acu ag an nasc seo: www.ncse.ie/information-booklets-pamphlets-2



Special educational needs

Special educational needs (SEN) can arise from a physical, sensory (blindness, visual impairment, deafness, hard of hearing), mental health, learning disability or from another condition that results in a child learning differently from a child without that condition.

Children with SEN are children first and have many different strengths, talents and abilities. All children, including those with special educational needs, have a right to an education that is appropriate to their needs and that enables them to develop in line with their own individual potential. An information booklet for the parents of children and young people with special educational needs is available on the NCSE website: www.ncse.ie/information-booklets-pamphlets-2



Scoil a roghnú do do pháiste a bhfuil RSO aige nó aici

De ghnáth, glacann sé tamall ar thuismitheoirí scoil a roghnú dá bpáistí a bhfuil RSO acu, agus is fiú roinnt cúinsí a chur san áireamh. I measc na gcúinsí seo tá riachtanais an pháiste, an rud is fearr don pháiste agus bhur rogha phearsanta mar thuismitheoirí. B'fhéarr le roinnt thuismitheoirí a bhfuil páistí le RSO acu a chlárú i scoil lán-Ghaeilge ach bíonn faitíos orthu nach ndéanfadh an páiste dul chun cinn maith i scoil dá leithéid.

Ag brath ar shainriachtanais an dalta, is féidir le daltaí a bhfuil RSO acu dul chun cinn a dhéanamh in oideachas dátheangach, má bhíonn timpeallacht foghlama ann atá tacúil. Cuireann scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge fáilte roimh dhaltaí a bhfuil RSO acu. Tá sé mar pholasaí ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna an leibhéal céanna tacaíochta a chur ar fáil do dhaltaí RSO i scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge is a bheadh ar fáil dó nó di i scoileanna eile.

Ag tacú le páistí réamhscoile

Is samhail í an tSamhail um Rochtain agus Cuimsiú a chinntíonn go mbíonn rochtain ag páistí óga míchumasacha ar an gClár Cúraim agus Oideachais Luath-Óige, i réamhscoileanna Gaeilge (Naíonraí) agus i gcinn eile nach iad. Tá an tsamhail seo deartha sa chaoi is go mbíonn sé freagrúil do shainriachtanais an pháiste i gcomhthéacs na réamhscolaíochta. Cuireann sí tacaíochtaí saincheaptha atá praiticiúil ar fáil, tacaíochtaí atá bunaithe ar riachtanais an pháiste, agus ní bhíonn gá le diagnóis fhoirmiúil mhíchumais.

Is féidir le páistí a bhfuil RSO acu freastal ar Naíonra chomh maith, a fheidhmíonn trí mheán na Gaeilge. Bíonn an tsamhail tumoideachais i bhfeidhm i Naíonra agus labhraítear Gaeilge nuair a bhíonn na páistí ag foghlaim, ag spraoi agus ag déanamh cumarsáide lena chéile. Cuireann Naíonraí fáilte roimh gach páiste, iad siúd a bhfuil RSO san áireamh, beag beann ar leibhéal Gaeilge an pháiste. Bíonn ról tábhachtach acu mar go dtugann siad na bunscoileanna do pháistí cumarsáid a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge. Cuireann sé seo le muinín an pháiste agus lena acmhainn foghlama.



Choosing a school for your child with SEN

Parents' decision about the educational placement of their child with SEN usually evolves over a period of time and a range of factors should be taken into account including your child's needs, your child's best interests, and your own preference as parents. Some parents would like to choose to send their child with SEN needs to an Irish-medium school but worry that they will not be able to make good progress there.

Students with SEN, depending on their individual needs, can do well in bilingual education settings provided that they have a supportive learning environment. Irish-medium schools welcome students with SEN and the policy of The Department of Education and Skill is that the same level of support for students with SEN should be provided to Irish-medium schools as to all other schools.

Supporting pre-school children

The **Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)** is a model of support designed to ensure that young children with disabilities can access Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme in English-medium as well as Irish-medium pre-school settings (Naíonraí). The model is designed to be responsive to the needs of each individual child in the context of their pre-school setting. It offers tailored, practical supports based on need and does not require a formal diagnosis of disability. Visiting Teachers are also available to support pre-school children who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who are blind or visually impaired.

Children with SEN can also access preschool provision through the medium of Irish known as a 'Naíonra'. Children in a Naíonra follow the immersion model where all play, learning and communication is facilitated through the medium of Irish. Naíonraí welcome children of all levels of Irish, including those with SEN. They play a very important role in providing children with the basic building blocks to communicate and socialise through the medium of Irish. This increases children's confidence and enhances their learning ability.



Ag tacú le páistí ar scoil

Tugtar tacaíocht teagasc bhreise do pháistí má aithníonn an scoil, tríd an gContanam Tacaíochta, go bhfuil riachtanais foghlama ag an bpáiste. Is córas é an Contanam Tacaíochta a d'fhorbair an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Síceolaíochta Oideachais, chun cuidiú le scoileanna páistí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu a aithint ionas gur féidir leis an scoil tacú leo. Feidhmíonn sé laistigh den seomra ranga, i ngrúpa beaga nó ar bhonn aonair, nó i meascán de leibhéal éagsúla i roinnt cásanna.

Tugann an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna tacaíochtaí teagasc sa bhreis do scoileanna, ag cur riachtanais oideachais na scoile san áireamh sa chinneadh seo. I measc na riachtanas a ndéantar machnamh orthu tá riachtanais litearthachta agus riachtanais uimhearthachta. I scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge, cuirtear leibhéal litearthachta Gaeilge agus Béarla araon san áireamh agus an cinneadh á dhéanamh. I gcás na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge, is féidir le daltaí scoile tacaíocht litearthachta a fháil trí Ghaeilge is trí Bhéarla, nuair a bhíonn gá leis.

Ba chóir do thacaíocht teagasc bhreise cur leis an tacaíocht a chuireann an múinteoir ranga nó ábhair ar fáil sa ghnáthsheomra ranga. Is féidir tacaíocht teagasc bhreise atá éifeachtach a chur ar fáil do do pháiste ar roinnt bealaí éagsúla:

- Is féidir le do pháiste bheith mar chuid de ghrúpa beag laistigh den ghnáthsheomra ranga.
- Is féidir le do pháiste bheith bainte den rang mar chuid de ghrúpa beag chun obair a dhéanamh i seomra ranga eile.
- Is féidir teagasc duine le duine a chur ar fáil don pháiste.
- Is féidir le do pháiste bheith mar chuid de rang ina bhfuil cómhúinteoireacht in úsáid. (Is éard is cómhúinteoireacht ann ná rang ina ndéanann an múinteoir ranga agus an múinteoir oideachais speisialta pleanáil agus cur i láthair an ranga a roinnt.)

Léirítear sa taighde nach n-oireann ceann de na samhlacha thuas do gach páiste a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu agus iad ar scoil. Bíonn formhór na scoileanna solúbtha agus baineann siad leas as na samhlacha ar fad a luadh thuas, i meascáin éagsúla. Cuirfidh an scoil sainriachtanais na bpáistí san áireamh agus iad ag cur plean le chéile faoi conas saintacaíocht chuí a chur ar fáil dóibh.

Cuireann múinteoirí oideachais speisialta teagasc breise ar fáil do dhaltaí a bhfuil RSO acu ar roinnt bealaí éagsúla:

- Déantar measúnú ar láidreachtaí agus ar riachtanais foghlama an pháiste
- Leagtar spriocanna foghlama amach
- Déantar teagasc mar theagasc duine le duine, teagasc grúpa nó cómhúinteoireacht
- Déantar monatóireacht, athbhreithniú agus taifeadadh ar an dul chun cinn

Tá tacaíocht Chúntóir Riachtanais Speisialta (SNA) ar fáil chun tacú leis na riachtanais chúraim shuntasacha a bhíonn ag roinnt daltaí. I measc na ngníomhaíochtaí a gcabhraíonn siad leo tá úsáid leithris, gléasadh, cothú, leigheas a thabhairt agus luaineacht.

Supporting children in school

Children receive additional teaching support if the school, through the Continuum of Support, identifies that a child has learning needs. The Continuum of Support is a system, developed by The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), which is in place in schools in order to identify and support children with special educational needs. It can operate within the classroom, in small groups or at individual levels or a combination of all levels.

The Department of Education and Skills allocates additional teaching supports to schools and in doing so, takes into account the school's educational needs, including its literacy and numeracy needs. In Irish-medium schools, literacy levels in both English and Irish are taken into account when making this allocation. In Irish-medium schools students can receive literacy support in both Irish and English, where this is required.

Additional teaching support given to your child should build on and complement the support delivered by the class or subject teacher in the ordinary classroom situation. Effective additional teaching support can be provided to your child in a number of different ways including:

- Your child being part of a small group within the ordinary classroom
- Your child being withdrawn as part of a small group to another classroom
- Your child being taught on a one to one basis
- Your child being taught as part of a class where team teaching is taking place. (Team teaching is where the special education teacher goes into a class with the class teacher and they share the planning and delivery of the class.)

Research shows that there is no one of the above models that suits all children with special educational needs for all of their school life. Most schools are flexible and may use all of the models described above, in different combinations. The school will take the particular needs of individual children into account when planning how best to provide support to them.

Special education teachers provide additional teaching to students with SEN in a number of different ways including:

- Assessment of strengths and learning needs
- Setting learning targets
- Teaching on an individual basis, in a group or team teaching
- Monitoring, reviewing and recording progress

Special Needs Assistant (SNA) support is also available to assist with the additional and significant care needs that some students may have. This can include helping with activities such as toileting, dressing, feeding, medication and mobility.

Tacaíocht do pháistí atá bodhar, a bhfuil allaíre orthu agus páistí atá dall nó a bhfuil lagú radhairc acu

De ghnáth, cuirtear na daltaí a luaitear thuas ar aghaidh go dtí seirbhísí speisialtóirí radhairc agus éisteolaíochta ó bhíonn siad óg. Ansin cuirtear ar aghaidh go dtí múinteoir ar cuairt iad.

Déanann múinteoirí ar cuairt na nithe seo a leanas mar chuid den tseirbhís:



Treoir, tacaíocht agus sainteagasc a thabhairt do pháistí réamhscoile agus a dtuismitheoirí sa bhaile



Sainteagasc, tacaíocht agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar scoil



Treoir do thuismitheoirí agus do mhúinteoirí araon maidir le scileanna cumarsáide a fhorbairt



Comhairle maidir le scileanna Braille a fhorbairt



Comhairle a chur ar thuismitheoirí agus ar mhúinteoirí faoi úsáid na teicneolaíochta oiriúnaithe. Cuimsíonn sé seo córais réimse fuaime, córais FM, teicneolaíocht atá oiriúnaitheach agus áiseanna lagamhairc



Dul i gcomhairle le thuismitheoirí, múinteoirí agus daoine gairmiúla. I measc na ndaoine gairmiúla tá éisteolaithe, teiripeoirí urlabhra agus teanga, Eagraithe Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais (SENO) agus an Fhoireann um Ionphlanduithe Cochla

Support for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired

Deaf or hard of hearing students and those who are blind or visually impaired are generally referred to specialist visual and audiology services at an early age. From there they are referred to a visiting teacher.

The service provided by visiting teachers includes:



Guidance, support and specialist teaching to pre-school children and their parents in the home



Specialist teaching, support and monitoring in schools



Guidance to parents and teachers on developing communication skills



Advice regarding the development of Braille skills



Advice to parents and teachers on the use of assistive technology, including sound-field systems, FM systems, adaptive technology, low vision aids



Liaising with parents, teachers and professionals including audiologists, speech and language therapists, SENOs, cochlear implant team

Teagmhálaithe úsáideacha

Is féidir dul go www.gaeloideachas.ie/oideachas-speisialta chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil maidir le hoideachas trí Ghaeilge agus maidir leis an tacaíocht atá ar fáil i scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge do pháistí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu. Is fiú aird faoi leith a thabhairt ar an rannóg CCanna do thuismitheoirí a bhfuil páistí le riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu.

Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Eagraí Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais áitiúil tríd an scoil nó ar shuíomh NCSE www.ncse.ie.

Is féidir sonraí teagmhála a fháil don mhúinteoir ar cuairt is áitiúla ag an suíomh seo: www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/VisitingTeacher-Service

Is féidir eolas a bhaineann leis na tacaíochtaí uilig a d'fhéadfaí bheith ag dul duit a fháil anseo: www.citizensinformation.ie.

Léitheoireacht bhreise

- Doras Feasa Fiafraí: Exploring Special Educational Needs Provision and Practices across Gaelscoileanna and Gaeltacht Primary Schools in the Republic of Ireland by Mary Barrett, 2016.
- The Additional Supports Required by Pupils with Special Educational Needs in Irish Medium-Schools by Dr Sinéad Andrews, 2019.

Useful contacts

Further information on Irish-medium education as well as support for children with special educational needs in Irish-medium schools can be found at www.gaeloideachas.ie/special-education/. See in particular a FAQ section for parents of children with special educational needs.

Your local Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) may be contacted through the school or from the NCSE website at www.ncse.ie.

Contact details for your local visiting teacher are available at: www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/VisitingTeacher-Service

Information about other supports to which you may be entitled are available from Citizens Information at: www.citizensinformation.ie.

Additional reading

- Doras Feasa Fiafraí: Exploring Special Educational Needs Provision and Practices across Gaelscoileanna and Gaeltacht Primary Schools in the Republic of Ireland by Mary Barrett, 2016.
- The Additional Supports Required by Pupils with Special Educational Needs in Irish Medium-Schools by Dr Sinéad Andrews, 2019.

Gorlann Ghnó na Forbacha
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Gaeloideachas 

Guth don Oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta





Fúinn

Is eagraíocht náisiúnta í Gaeloideachas a thacaíonn le forbairt an oideachais lán-Ghaeilge.

Bunaíodh í mar Gaelscoileanna in 1973 le tacú le bunscoileanna agus iar-bhunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Gaeltacht. Ó shin, leathnaíodh ról na heagraíochta agus cuireann sí seirbhísí tacaíochta ar fáil anois do scoileanna Gaeltachta agus naíonraí lasmuigh den Gaeltacht chomh maith.

Tugann Gaeloideachas comhairle, cúnamh agus tacaíocht do dhaoine ar mian leo oideachas lán-Ghaeilge dá bpáistí, chomh maith le seirbhísí tacaíochta agus abhcóideachta dóibh siúd atá ag obair san earnáil.

About Us

Gaeloideachas is a national organisation supporting the development of Irish-medium education.

Founded as Gaelscoileanna in 1973 to support Irish-medium schools, primary and post-primary, outside of the Gaeltacht, the organisation's remit now includes the provision of support services for Irish-medium schools in Gaeltacht areas, and for Irish-medium preschools outside of the Gaeltacht.

Gaeloideachas provides advice, assistance and support to people who wish to have their children educated through Irish, as well as support services and advocacy for those working in the sector.



Gaeloideachas 
Guth don Oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta

ncse 
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council for Special Education

Urraithe ag

Foras na Gaeilge

Cuireadh an leabhrán seo le chéile i gcomhar leis an gComhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta (NCSE)
This leaflet was put together in consultation with The National Council for Special Education (NCSE)