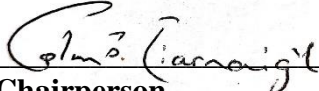


Irish Exemption Policy



**Coláiste Bríde,
Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford.**

Ratified by the Board of Management



**Chairperson,
Board of Management**

Review Date: 10th November, 2023



**Secretary,
Board of Management**

MISSION STATEMENT

“We are working to promote a secure and caring environment; Where Respect, Responsibility and Christian commitment grow, Drawing forth the positive of each individual”

Coláiste Bríde is a Catholic School founded by the Mercy Order under the trusteeship of CEIST. It has a long tradition of academic excellence and is committed to the development of the whole student. It offers a curriculum designed to meet fully the needs of the student.

The school wishes to cater for the academic, spiritual, moral, aesthetic, interpersonal and physical needs of the student. The characteristics of the school are the pursuit of tolerance, compassion and a sense of justice and equality for all.

We aim to develop in each student, confidence, self-respect and respect for others.

The school and its staff value its partnership with parents in meeting the personal and educational requirements of students and staff alike.

The core values of CEIST are:

Promoting Spiritual and Human Development

We believe a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning

We are committed to excellence and to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Showing Respect for Every Person

We respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person.

Creating Community

Our schools are faith communities of welcome and hospitality where Gospel values are lived and where there is special care for those most in need.

Being Just and Responsible

We seek to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships

Coláiste Bríde Policy on the Granting of Irish Exemptions

In accordance with the guidelines on granting Irish exemptions in post-primary schools issued by the Department of Education in August 2019, and in line with Circular 0055/2022, the following document outlines the procedures in place for the granting of such an exemption.

In general exemptions can be made on the following grounds:

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 they 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 date 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. 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 learning 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 (a minimum of two terms of intervention)

AND

- (ii) who, at the time of the application for an exemption presents with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile.

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

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 their participation and engagement in learning and school life

AND

- (ii) where we have substantial written evidence that these needs persist despite targeted and individualised Student Support Plans to address those needs

AND

- (iii) where we have 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.

Steps involved in applying for an exemption

1. The parent(s)/ guardian(s), on behalf of the student (or the student where she is 18 years), must make a written application to the Principal requesting a Certificate of Exemption, using the Department issued application form.
2. The school staff will mark the date of receipt of the application on the form and issue an acknowledgement to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the student..
3. Any implications of an exemption for career or college will be discussed with the student and the parent(s)/ guardian(s) by the Principal, Guidance Counsellor or SEN Coordinator. Any additional supports that may be offered to the student, in the case of an exemption being granted, will also be discussed.
4. The application will then be processed. A decision will be made within 21 days, unless under exceptional circumstances, where further testing is scheduled outside of this timeframe.

When considering an application for a Certificate of Exemption, the school must be satisfied that all the criteria are being met. Where an application is being met on the grounds of learning difficulties, this process may involve the student completing standardised tests during the 21-day timeframe. Test results from NEPS or private psychological assessments may be used in consideration of an exemption, provided the assessment is no more than one year old. The school may use entrance assessment results, classroom-based testing, whole-school term exam results, psychological assessments and information from primary schools, along with its own psychometric testing to ensure a sustained thread in poor language acquisition exists, as part of the application process. Scores on private psychological assessments alone will not be sufficient to grant an exemption.

5. Both the Quick Guide Checklist (pages 14-18) in the Guidelines for Post-Primary Schools and the Irish Exemption Decision Form (Appendix A) will be completed by the relevant personnel and kept on file with all other relevant documentation.
6. The Principal will inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing if an application is successful and will issue a copy of the Certificate of Exemption in due course.
7. Where an application is unsuccessful, the Principal will inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing, outlining the reason(s) why it was refused and provide details of how the decision can be appealed to the Irish Exemptions Appeal Committee within 30 calendar days.
8. All correspondence, information and materials gathered during the application process will be kept on file to be available for review by any authorised Department of Education officials.

Review and Evaluation

This Irish Exemption policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis and may be amended following consultation with the school community.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: _____