



Information for Parents/Guardians



The language used in Irish Schools

- In schools in Ireland we use two languages: English and Irish.
- English is the most commonly used language.
- Most of our schools teach all the subjects using English and it is the language used between teachers and learners.
- In over 90% of our schools, English is used to teach subjects and it is the language used in the daily interactions among teachers and learners. In these schools, Irish is a subject that is studied as one of the range of subjects in the curriculum.

Schools in the *Gaeltacht*



- 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. You and your child will be able to decide whether you wish to attend an Irish or English-speaking school.
- If the school that your child(ren) is attending is in a *Gaeltacht* region, they will study many of your subjects through Irish.
- If the first school that your child(ren) attends when you start school in Ireland is a post-primary school, they probably will not study Irish but will learn about Ireland's cultural heritage through other subjects.