

Exemption from Irish Policy

Rationale:

This policy was drafted by staff of St Laurence's National School in response to recent changes in special educational provisions.

Relationship to the School Ethos:

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement of the school, which strives to enhance the self esteem of all through providing for the intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of all.

Aims and Objectives:

- To allow for pupils of differing abilities, interests and circumstances
- To enhance inclusivity within the school
- To enable children of all abilities to access the curriculum in a learner friendly manner

Applicants eligible for an Exemption from Irish:

- Students whose primary education up to 11 years of age was received outside the Republic of Ireland.
- Students who were enrolled in a primary school and who are now enrolling again after having been abroad. The student must have been abroad for at least three years. The student must be at least 11 years of age when re-enrolling.
- Students who have a specific learning disability and have been advised by a psychologist to seek an Irish exemption.
- Students who have a general learning disability and have been advised by a psychologist to seek an Irish exemption.
- Students who have a general learning disability on account of a serious sensory impairment and have been advised by a qualified medical practitioner to seek an Irish exemption.
- Students from abroad who have no understanding of English, when enrolled, would only be required to study English.

Procedures:

- The school requires a written application for exemption from the parents/guardians of the particular child. It must be accompanied by documentary evidence such as age, previous schooling etc. and a psychologist's report (if relevant).
- The Principal in consultation with relevant staff and, if deemed necessary, the Board of Management will grant an exemption if warranted and will present a 'Certificate of Exemption' to the parents in accordance with Circular 12/96.
- Note: The school is no longer required to send a copy of the exemption form to the DES. The school grants the exemption and keeps the form on file.

Roles and Responsibilities:

In-school management, class teachers and the Board of Management will contribute to the implementation of school procedures.

It is important for parents/guardians to note that exemption from Irish may have implications for the child later in life e.g. choice of college courses, employment opportunities etc.

Success Criteria:

- Happy school learning environment
- Positive teacher/parental feedback

Review:

This policy was last reviewed in November 2015. It will be reviewed periodically.

Ratification and Communication:

This plan is ratified by the Board of Management. It will be put on the school server and the school website. There will also be a hard copy available from reception.