

New Primary Language Curriculum for English and Irish - Junior Infants to Sixth Class

Information Leaflet for Parents

The curriculum used in primary schools is changing. The new Primary Language Curriculum for **English** and **Irish** is the first part of this. Children in junior infants to second class have already been experiencing this new curriculum. Soon your child in third to sixth class will also be learning through it.



Who is the new Language Curriculum for?

The new curriculum for English and Irish is for all children from junior infants to sixth class in all schools - English-medium schools, Gaeltacht schools, Gaelscoileanna and special schools.

Why is there a new curriculum?

The curriculum is changing so that it is up-to-date with the times we live in, with developments in language learning and the introduction of the Free Preschool Years. Since the last curriculum (1999), society and communities have changed greatly, as has your child's learning environment. Teachers say they would like more guidance on the best ways to help children in their language learning. Thanks to research, we now know more about how children learn to speak,

read and write and how to help them make progress in ways that are well suited to their learning needs.

How is the new Language Curriculum different from the one introduced in 1999?

The new curriculum is structured to make it easier for teachers to support children learning both English and Irish. As a parent, the biggest difference you'll see is in *how* your child will learn the two languages in school. Over the coming years,

- your child will have lots of opportunities to talk in class, give their opinion and express their thoughts and ideas. Children will also be given the opportunity to explore and offer their opinions on poems, stories and messages written by others. The curriculum highlights the importance of children developing their oral language skills as well as learning to read and write.
- your child will be supported in making progress in oral language, reading and writing at a level and pace suited to them. The new Language Curriculum supports children with different learning strengths and needs.
- your child's language learning in the infant classes will happen through play and playful interactions with their friends and teacher in the classroom. This will help them to build on their language learning in the preschool years based on *Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework*.