

Irish Policy

St. Anne's School

2025 2026

Introductory Statement and Rationale

St. Anne's School is a special school established in 1973 and caters for pupils from Co. Clare with special educational needs within the range of mild general learning disability, from 4- 18 years of age. It is our school's aim to *'provide a caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of our pupils are identified and addressed'*.

This plan was developed in consultation with staff and in accordance with Circular 0054/2022. Exemptions from the Study of Irish which states:

"Exempting a pupil from the study of Irish will be considered only in those exceptional circumstances set out in section 2.2 of this Circular. The decision to exempt a pupil from the study of Irish is an important decision that has implications for his/her future learning. The decision to grant an exemption from the study of Irish is made by the principal, but it must be made following detailed discussion with the pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s), the class teacher, special education teachers and the pupil. 2.2.4- A pupil in a recognised special school or class or who was previously enrolled in a recognised special school or class or who has a recommendation and has been deemed eligible for a place in a recognised special school and/or in a special class in a mainstream school."

Aims

- To create and develop an awareness of Irish language and Irish culture
- To provide opportunities for all pupils to participate in Irish language and cultural activities in a meaningful way
- To promote and encourage a positive attitude to Irish language and our Irish culture
- Pupils will enjoy learning about our Irish language and culture.

Irish Language and Cultural Activities

Pupils at St. Anne's School will experience and participate in the following Irish language and cultural activities at a level appropriate to their learning needs:

- Irish Music – listen and respond to traditional Irish music and Irish Artists, e.g. Sharon Shannon
- Irish Musical instruments – learn about the harp, pipe, tin whistle and fiddle
- Irish Poems and Songs, e.g. lámh lámh eile, Beidh Aonach Amárach

- Irish National Anthem and Ireland’s Call – pupils will listen to and learn these songs
- Irish Dancing, e.g. Shoe the Donkey and The Siege of Ennis (cross curricular- PE)
- Irish Folklore Stories, e.g. Fionn and the Salmon of Knowledge, The Children of Lir (cross curricular- History)
- Irish Traditional Sports – football, hurling and camogie (cross curricular- PE)
- Irish and County Clare Flag – Pupils will learn about the Irish flag and the County Clare Flag
- Provinces and Counties of Ireland (cross curricular- Geography)
- Art – Celtic art activities (cross curricular- Art)
- St. Brigid’s Day activities – St. Brigid’s song, story about St. Brigid and the Cloak and making St. Brigid Crosses (cross curricular-Religion)
- St. Patrick’s Day activities – Learn about St. Patrick’s life, story of St. Patrick and the Snakes, make hats, shamrocks and badges. We will have a St. Patrick’s Day parade at school (cross curricular- Religion)
- St. Anne- learn about St. Anne (cross curricular- Religion, History)
- Irish life in the past, e.g. at home, at school, life on the farm, Halloween games in the past, etc (cross curricular- History)
- Irish Food, e.g. traditional cooking – homemade brown bread and scones (cross curricular)
- School trips to cultural places- pupils will visit Bunratty Folk Park, Franciscan Abbey, Ennis Museum, King John’s Castle, Glor Theatre
- Seachtain na Gaeilge – St. Anne’s School will participate in Seachtain na Gaeilge each year
- Irish vocabulary will be displayed in classes, e.g., doras, fuinneog, clog, srl.
- Irish words and phrases will be used informally throughout the day – lámha suas, buladh bos, oscail an doras, slán, dia dhuit, is mise John, numbers, colours, days of the week, etc.
- Irish Phrase of the Week – we will have an Irish phrase each week which will be distributed to all classes and practiced in assembly. It will also be on our website.
- Theme of the month – Irish vocabulary will be used when teaching lessons, e.g. me fein, sa bhaile, an aimsir, bia, srl.
- Language games, e.g. bingo, listen and colour, Simon Says, etc.

Thematic Approach

Our school adopts a thematic approach each month. Irish language and cultural activities can be linked to these themes:

- *Myself and My Senses*
- *My Family*
- *My School*
- *Autumn and Halloween*
- *People who help us*
- *Transport and Journeys*
- *Houses and Homes*

- *Winter and Christmas*
- *St. Brigid's Day*
- *Spring and the Farm*
- *St. Patrick's Day*
- *Weather and Clothes*
- *Easter*
- *Day and Night*
- *Gardening and Growing*
- *Summer*
- *At the Zoo*
- *Minibeasts*
- *Water*
- *Holidays*

List of Resources

- Stories
- Posters
- Musical Instruments
- YouTube
- PowerPoints
- Twinkl website
- Canva
- Games – bingo, matching cards
- Use of Resources for each theme, e.g. my family, farm animals, clothes, etc.

Roles and Responsibilities

All teachers will be responsible for implementing this plan.

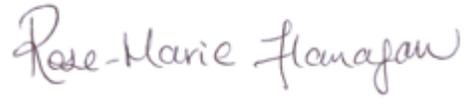
The deputy principal will be responsible for the phrase of the week and organising activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Ratification and Implementation

It was ratified by the Board of Management on the 20th November 2025.



Beth Hickey
Chairperson B.O.M



Rose-Marie Flanagan
Principal