

Policy on the Granting of Irish Exemptions

In accordance with the guidance on granting Irish exemptions in post-primary schools issued by the Department of Education in August 2019, and in line with Circular 0028/2019, the following document outlines the procedure in place for the granting of such an exemption.

In general, exemptions can be granted on the following two grounds:

1. Exemptions on the grounds of students who received their primary education OUTSIDE of the Republic of Ireland.

- If the student received their primary education outside of the Republic of Ireland up to their final year of primary school (or 15 years of age), the student may be granted an exemption.
- If the student is re-enrolling following a period of three consecutive years abroad.

2. Exemptions on the grounds of learning difficulties.

- In order to be granted an exemption from the study of Irish on the grounds of learning difficulties, the student must meet the following two criteria:
 - The student must achieve ONE literacy attainment score 2L or below the 10th percentile (equivalent score of 83 or less) in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling.

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- The student must present with persistent learning difficulties in language despite access to the differentiated teaching approaches over time.

CHARLEVILLE CBS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Steps Involved in Applying for an Exemption

- The parent(s) / guardian(s) on behalf of the student (or the student where he has reached 18 years) must make a WRITTEN APPLICATION to the Principal requesting a Certificate of Exemption.
- The Principal will acknowledge receipt of the application in writing.

Policy on the Granting of Irish Exemptions

In accordance with the guidance on granting Irish exemptions in post-primary schools issued by the Department of Education in August 2019, and in line with Circular 0053/2019, the following document outlines the procedures in place for the granting of such an exemption.

In general, exemptions can be granted on the following two grounds:

1. Exemptions on the grounds of students who received their primary education OUTSIDE of the Republic of Ireland.

- a. If the student received their primary education outside of the Republic of Ireland up to their final year of primary school (or 12 years of age), the student may be granted an exemption.
- b. If the student is re-enrolling following a period of three consecutive years abroad.

2. Exemptions on the grounds of learning difficulties.

- a. In order to be granted an exemption from the study of Irish on the grounds of learning difficulties, the student must meet the following two criteria:
 - i. The student must achieve ONE literary attainment score at or below the 10th percentile rank/standard score of 81 or less in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling.
These scores must be achieved using a recognised psychometric test, namely the WIAT or WRAT tests.

AND

- ii. The student must present with persistent learning difficulties in language despite access to the differentiated teaching approaches over time.

Steps Involved in Applying for an Exemption

1. The parent(s) / guardian(s), on behalf of the student (or the student where he has reached 18 years), must make a WRITTEN APPLICATION to the Principal requesting a Certificate of Exemption.
2. The Principal will acknowledge receipt of this application in writing.

3. An appointment with the school's Career Guidance Counsellor will be made to discuss how an exemption may impact future career / college options and any supports that may be put in place for the student if their application is successful.
4. Once this step has occurred, the application will 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 satisfy themselves that all of the criteria for such an Exemption is being met. This process may involve further testing of the student during the 21-day timeframe. Parent(s) / student (s) may also use psychological assessments conducted by NEPS or privately to support their application, but these assessments can be **no more than one-year-old**. The school may utilise entrance exams results, classroom based exams, whole-school end-of-term exams, psychological assessments, information from primary schools, along with its own psychometric testing so as to ensure a sustained trend in poor language acquisition exists, before granting an Exemption. **Scores on private psychological assessments along will not be sufficient to be granted an exemption.**

5. Both the Quick Guide Checklist (page 15-16) in the Guidelines for Post-Primary Schools and the Irish Exemption Decision Form (Appendix A) will be completed by all 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 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) 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, files and the minutes of meetings will be kept on file to be available for review by any authorised Department of Education & Skills officials.

Signed:

Pd. Samy

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date:

13/10/20