AN BHUNSCOIL GHAELTACHTA

THE GAELTACHT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eolas do Thuismitheoirí & do Chaomhnóirí

Information for Parents & Guardians

www.gaeloideachas.ie

Gaeloideachas

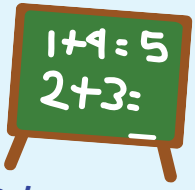
Guth don Oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta

Céard is Bunscoil Ghaeltachta ann?

Tá an bhunscoil Ghaeltachta suite laistigh de theorainn na Gaeltachta agus tá sí páirteach sa *Scéim Aitheantais Scoileanna Gaeltachta* faoin *Polasaí don Oideachas Gaeltachta.* Is í an Ghaeilge an phríomhtheanga foghlama agus chumarsáide sa scoil Ghaeltachta. Cuirtear luath-thumoideachas i bhfeidhm sna Naíonáin Bheaga agus Mhóra. Ciallaíonn sin go mbeidh na naíonáin tumtha go hiomlán sa Ghaeilge. Is Gaeilge amháin a bheidh á labhairt acu sa chéad dá bhliain ar scoil. Seo an córas is éifeachtaí chun an Ghaeilge a mhúineadh do pháistí nach í an Ghaeilge a dteanga baile agus déanann sé treisiú ar chumas teanga na gcainteoirí dúchasacha. Ní chuirtear tús le múineadh an Bhéarla i mbunscoileanna Gaeltachta go dtí Rang a 1.

Cuireann an scoil Ghaeltachta fáilte roimh dhaltaí a thagann ó chúlraí éagsúla teanga, cultúir, creidimh agus socheacnamaíocha. Cuireann an scoil Ghaeltachta béim ar an nGaeilge agus ar an oidhreacht Ghaeltachta, chomh maith le béim ar rannpháirtíocht i réimse leathan de ghníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha a chuireann le foghlaim agus le heispéiris na ndaltaí.

Déanaimid teagasc ar dhaltaí ó gach cúlra teanga!



What is a Gaeltacht Primary School?

The Gaeltacht primary school is situated within the Gaeltacht and participates in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* under the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education.* Irish is the principal learning and communication language of the school. Early immersion education is implemented in Junior and Senior Infants. This means that infants will be totally immersed in the Irish language in their first two years in school. Early immersion is the most effective system for children to learn a language. Early immersion also helps to maintain the fluency of the native Irish speakers in the same classroom. The teaching of English does not begin in Gaeltacht schools until First Class.

Gaeltacht schools welcome pupils from all linguistic, cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. Emphasis is placed on the Irish language and on the school's Gaeltacht heritage, through participation in a wide range of cultural activities which enhances the pupils' learning and experience.

Bom Dia!

Guten Morgen!

Good Morning!

Maidin mhaith!

Bonjour!

Dzień dobry!

We teach children of all linguistic backgrounds!

Céard é an Polasaí don Oideachas Gaeltachta?

Tá an *Polasaí don Oideachas Gaeltachta* á chur i bhfeidhm sna scoileanna Gaeltachta tríd *An Scéim Aitheantais Scoileanna Gaeltachta* ó 2017. Is polasaí stáit é a cruthaíodh chun aitheantas na scoileanna a dhaingniú mar scoileanna Gaeltachta. Is í an phríomhaidhm atá leis ná *"a chinntiú go bhfuil eispéireas oideachais ardchaighdeáin agus ábhartha trí mheán na Gaeilge ar fáil do na daoine óga uile atá ina gcónaí i limistéir Ghaeltachta agus, ar an mbealach seo, tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge mar phríomhtheanga na dteaghlach agus na bpobal Gaeltachta"* (Polasaí don Oideachas Gaeltachta 2017-22, lch.7). Tá réimse tacaíochtaí breise curtha ar fáil do na scoileanna atá páirteach sa Scéim chun cabhrú leo feidhmiú ag barr a gcumas mar scoileanna Gaeltachta. Tá Scéim Cúntóirí Teanga maoinithe ag Roinn na Gaeltachta ag feidhmiú freisin i ngach scoil Ghaeltachta chun cuidiú leis an bhfoireann an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil.

What is The Policy on Gaeltacht Education

The *Policy on Gaeltacht Education* is being implemented in Gaeltacht schools through the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* since 2017. It is a state policy created to consolidate recognition of participating schools as Gaeltacht schools. Its key objective is *"to ensure the availability of a high quality and relevant Irish-medium educational experience for all young people living in Gaeltacht areas and in this way to support the use of Irish as the main language of families and of Gaeltacht communities"* (Policy on Gaeltacht Education, 2017-22, page 7). A range of additional supports is available to participating schools under the Policy to help them realise their full potential as Gaeltacht schools.

A Language Assistants Scheme funded by Roinn na Gaeltachta operates in every Gaeltacht school to support the teaching staff in promoting the Irish language in the school.

Cén fáth go gcuirtear luath-thumoideachas i bhfeidhm sa scoil Ghaeltachta?

De bharr a lán athruithe a bheith tagtha ar shochaí na Gaeltachta le blianta, tá meascán teangacha le cloisteáil anois sa phobal agus sa seomra ranga Gaeltachta. Bíonn difríochtaí móra sa chaighdeán Gaeilge a bhíonn ag páistí nuair a thosaíonn siad ar scoil. Is cainteoirí dúchais cuid acu ó theaghlaigh lán-Ghaeilge, bíonn beagán Gaeilge ag cuid eile agus bíonn roinnt páistí nach mbíonn aon Ghaeilge acu. Bhí an meascán cumas teanga seo fíordhúshlánach do mhúinteoirí i mbunscoileanna Gaeltachta go dtí gur cuireadh an *Polasaí don Oideachas Gaeltachta* i bhfeidhm in 2017. Faoin bPolasaí cuireadh an dá bhliain luath-thumoideachais i bhfeidhm. Tá sé cruthaithe go hidirnáisiúnta gurb é an luath-thumoideachas an bealach is éifeachtaí chun freastal ar an éagsúlacht cumais teanga seo sa seomra ranga - cothaíonn an luath-thumoideachas líofacht teanga sna páistí ar bheagán nó gan aon Ghaeilge agus treisíonn sé saibhreas Gaeilge na gcainteoirí dúchasacha.

Why is early immersion education implemented in Gaeltacht schools?

As a result of the many changes in Gaeltacht society in the last number of years, there is now a wide range of languages spoken in the community and this is reflected in Gaeltacht classrooms. There are great differences in the standard of children's Irish when they start school. Some are native speakers from Irish speaking families, others speak a little Irish and there are some children who don't speak any Irish. This mix of linguistic ability was very challenging for teachers in Gaeltacht primary schools until the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education* was implemented in 2017. Under the Policy, a two-year early immersion programme was implemented for junior and senior infants. It has been proven internationally that early immersion education is the best way to accommodate a class with this diversity in language ability – it fosters language fluency in the children with little or no Irish and it enhances the ability of the native speakers in the language.

Céard iad na buntáistí a bhíonn ag páistí a fhaigheann a gcuid bunoideachais sa scoil Ghaeltachta?

- Faigheann siad sárchaighdeán oideachais trí mheán na Gaeilge.
- Bíonn tuiscint dhomhain acu ar a n-oidhreacht Ghaeltachta agus iad feasach ar an saibhreas teanga agus cultúir timpeall orthu.
- Treisíonn an bunoideachas Gaeltachta cumas na bpáistí cumarsáid nádúrtha i nGaeilge a dhéanamh ina bpobal féin - lena muintir, cairde agus sna siopaí, seirbhísí agus cumainn áitiúla rud a chuireann bonn níos láidre faoin bpobal Gaeltachta.
- Bíonn páistí na Gaeltachta dátheangach, líofa i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla agus in ann léamh agus scríobh sa dá theanga. Tá sé cruthaithe go hidirnáisiúnta go ndéanann an dátheangachas níos éasca é teangacha eile a shealbhú, rud a ghabhfas chun tairbhe dóibh nuair a thosaíonn siad ar an iar-bhunscoil.
- Chomh maith leis na buntáistí acadúla agus cultúir a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas, tá buntáistí eile a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas. Féach ar na leathanaigh a leanas:

What advantages do children who receive their primary education in the Gaeltacht school have?

- They receive an excellent education through the medium of Irish.
- They have a deep understanding of their Gaeltacht heritage and an awareness of the rich language and culture in which they are immersed.
- Gaeltacht primary education enhances the children's ability to converse naturally in Irish in their own community - with their family and friends, in local shops, services and clubs - which in turn strengthens the Gaeltacht community base.
- Gaeltacht children are bilingual, fluent in both Irish and in English and able to read and write in both languages. It has been proven internationally that bilingualism makes it easier to acquire other languages, which will benefit them when they begin their post-primary education.
- As well as the academic and cultural advantages, bilingualism has other advantages. See the following pages:

Buntáistí cognaíocha

Éiríonn le páistí smaoineamh ar bhealaí **níos cruthaithí**

Bíonn scileanna cuimhne níos fearr acu

Bíonn siad níos fearr **ag tabhairt airde, ag díriú ar thascanna** agus á gcur i gcrích

Léiríonn taighde gur féidir leis an dátheangachas moill cheithre bliana a chur ar ghalar Alzheimer

Cognitive advantages

Children can become **more creative thinkers**

Helps to **improve memory skills**

They're better able **to pay attention, to concentrate** on and complete tasks

Research has shown that being bilingual can delay the onset of Alzheimer's Disease by four years

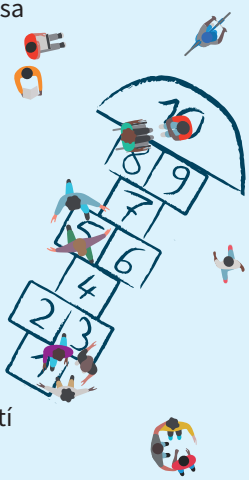
Líofacht agus litearthacht in dhá theanga

Forbraíonn páistí **líofacht** agus **litearthacht** sa Ghaeilge agus sa Bhéarla araon ar scoil

Scileanna inaistrithe iad seo gur féidir a chur i bhfeidhm i dteangacha eile

Bíonn tuiscint níos fearr acu ar na **bunchlocha teanga -** gramadach, déanamh focal, ord abairte

Bíonn sé níos éasca do na páistí **teangacha eile a fhoghlaim** leis na scileanna litearthachta atá sealbhaithe acu



Fluency and literacy in two languages

Children develop **fluency** and literacy in both Irish and English in school

These **transferable skills** can be applied to other languages

Better understanding of the **foundations of language;** grammar, word formation, sentence structure

Easier for the children **to learn additional languages,** thanks to the literacy skills they acquire through immersion education

Muinín agus féiniúlacht

Bíonn níos mó glacadh ag na páistí le cultúir éagsúla agus bíonn **meas níos mó** acu orthu

Spreagtar **ilchultúrachas** níos doimhne agus níos lú ciníochais

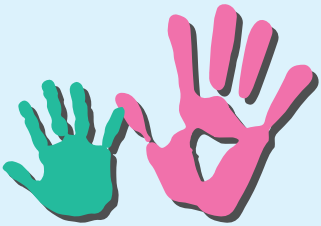
Bíonn tuiscint níos fearr ag na páistí ar a gcuid féiniúlachta féin — bíonn **féinmheas** níos mó acu

Confidence and identity

Receive broader exposure to other cultures and develop a **greater respect** for them

Promotes deeper **multiculturalism** and less racism

Better understanding of their own sense of self, and this gives them increased **self-esteem**



Gnóthachtáil san oideachas

Léirigh taighde in 2011 go raibh **gnóthachtáil níos airde** sa Bhéarla agus sa mhata araon ag páistí i scoileanna Gaeltachta i gcomparáid lena bpiarghrúpa i scoileanna lán-Bhéarla.

Bronntar marcanna bónais ar iarrthóirí Ardteiste a fhreagraíonn trí Ghaeilge na páipéir scríofa in ábhair atá ainmnithe ag Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit.

Increased educational attainment

Research undertaken in 2011 showed that children in Gaeltacht schools **attained a higher level** in both English and maths in comparison to their peer groups in English-medium schools.

Bonus marks are awarded to Leaving Cert candidates who answer the written papers through Irish in subjects prescribed by the State Examinations Commission.

Ceisteanna coitianta

Frequently asked questions

Cén chaoi a gcuidíonn an dá bhliain luath-thumoideachais le páistí ar cainteoirí dúchais iad?

Is trí Ghaeilge go hiomlán a bheidh an mhúinteoireacht agus an chumarsáid le páistí sna naíonáin bheaga agus mhóra. Saibhreoidh sé seo Gaeilge na gcainteoirí dúchais agus láidreoidh sé a gcuid scileanna cumarsáide, léitheoireachta agus scríbhneoireachta sa teanga. Cuirfidh sé lena stór focal, cuideoidh sé leo struchtúir na teanga a shealbhú agus tugann sé deis bhreise dóibh chun bonn níos seasmhaí a chur faoina gcuid cumas Gaeilge.

How does two years of early immersion education assist children who are native speakers?

Teaching and communication with children in junior and senior infants will be completely through Irish. This will enrich the native speakers' Irish and will strengthen their communication, reading and writing skills in the language. It will enhance their vocabulary; it will help them to acquire language structure and it will give them more time to develop a strong foundation in the language.

An mbeidh sé deacair ar pháiste nach labhraíonn Gaeilge ag tosú sa Scoil Ghaeltachta?

Ní bheidh, cuirtear fáilte mhór roimh gach páiste sa scoil Ghaeltachta is cuma cén teanga a labhraíonn sé/sí. Sna chéad seachtainí ar scoil, úsáidfidh an múinteoir comharthaíocht choirp, pictiúir, gothaí agus tuin chainte chun brí a chur in iúl agus cumarsáid a dhéanamh leis na páistí. Úsáidfidh siad amhráin, frásaí úsáideacha, cantaireacht agus rímeanna chun na páistí a mhealladh agus a spreagadh. De réir a chéile, tosóidh na páistí ag úsáid na Gaeilge go nádúrtha faoi stiúir an mhúinteora.

Will it be difficult for a child who does not speak Irish to start off in the Gaeltacht school?

No, it won't. Every child is made very welcome in the Gaeltacht school regardless of which language he or she speaks. In the early weeks in school, the teacher will use body language, pictures, gestures and intonation to express meaning and to communicate with the children. They will use songs, helpful phrases and rhymes to entice and encourage the children. Gradually, the children will begin to use Irish naturally under the direction of the teacher.

Céard faoin mBéarla? An mbeidh páistí na Gaeltachta faoi mhíbhuntáiste muna ndéanann siad staidéar ar Bhéarla go dtí Rang 1?

Ní bheidh. Beidh scileanna scríbhneoireachta agus léitheoireachta foghlamtha trí Ghaeilge ag na páistí i ranganna na naíonán. Aistreoidh siad na scileanna seo chuig foghlaim léitheoireacht & scríbhneoireacht an Bhéarla i Rang 1. De bharr go bhfuil na scileanna seo acu cheana beidh sé níos éasca acu an Béarla a fhoghlaim. Léiríonn taighde in Éirinn agus thar lear agus tá sé dearbhaithe i gCuraclam Teanga na Bunscoile go n-aistrítear na scileanna léitheoireachta & scríbhneoireachta a shealbhaíonn páistí ar dtús i dteanga amháin chuig an dara teanga agus go mbíonn sé níos éasca acu an dara teanga a fhoghlaim dá bharr sin. Leanann páistí na Gaeltachta an curaclam céanna Béarla agus a leantar i scoileanna lán-Bhéarla. Léirigh taighde in 2011 go raibh gnóthachtáil níos airde sa Bhéarla agus sa mhata araon ag páistí i scoileanna Gaeltachta i gcomparáid lena bpiarghrúpa i scoileanna lán-Bhéarla.

What about English? Will Gaeltacht children be disadvantaged if they don't study English until First Class?

No, they won't. The children will have learned reading and writing skills through Irish in the infant classes. They will transfer these skills to learning how to read & write in English in First Class. As a result of having these skills already, it will be easier to learn English. Research in Ireland and abroad and which has been validated in the Primary School Language Curriculum, shows that reading & writing skills first acquired by children in one language transfer to a second language and it is easier for them to learn that second language as a result. Gaeltacht children follow the same English curriculum that is followed in English-medium schools. Research undertaken in 2011 showed that children in Gaeltacht schools attained a higher level in both English and maths in comparison to their peer groups in English-medium schools.

An bhfuil sé oiriúnach do pháistí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta acu a gcuid oideachais a fháil trí Ghaeilge?

Cuireann scoileanna Gaeltachta oideachas ar fáil do dhaltaí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta acu, idir riachtanais fhisiciúla agus riachtanais oideachais; páistí a bhfuil lagradharc nó lagéisteacht acu, páistí atá ar speictream an uathachais, páistí a bhfuil disléicse orthu agus le riachtanais speisialta oideachais eile chomh maith. Cuireann scoileanna Gaeltachta an tacaíocht chéanna ar fáil is atá i scoileanna lán-Bhéarla. D'aithin tuairisc a rinne An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta agus a foilsíodh in 2011, go gcuireann an t-oideachas dátheangach le forbairt shóisialta, mhothúchánach agus idirphearsanta na ndaltaí. Le roinnt blianta táthar ag cur leis an soláthar ranganna speisialta i scoileanna Gaeltachta, le freastal ar pháistí le riachtanais speisialta oideachais. Is í an cheist is tabhachtaí atá le cur agus scoil á roghnú agat do do pháiste ná *'an bhfuil na hacmhainní agus an taithí acu chun tacú le riachtanais mo pháiste - idir riachtanais fhoghlama agus riachtanais shástachta?'* Cuir ceist ar an scoil faoin tacaíocht is féidir leo a chur ar fáil bunaithe ar shainriachtanais do pháiste. Is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil inár rannóg a bhaineann le riachtanais speisialta oideachais - *www.gaeloideachas.ie/oideachas-speisialta*

Is Irish-medium education suitable for children with special educational needs?

Gaeltacht schools provide education to pupils with special needs, both physical and educational needs; children with impaired vision or with impaired hearing, children on the autism spectrum, children with dyslexia and other special educational needs. Gaeltacht schools provide the same support that is available in English-medium schools. A report from the National Council for Special Education published in 2011, recognised that bilingual education contributes to pupils' social, emotional and interpersonal growth. In the last number of years added provision has been made for Special Classes in Gaeltacht schools to accommodate children with special educational needs. The most important question to ask when choosing a school for your child is *'does it have the resources and experience to support the needs of my child – both learning and happiness needs?'* Ask the school about the support it can provide based on the particular needs of your child. You will find more information in our section relating to special educational needs - *www.gaeloideachas.ie/special-education/*

Cén chaoi ar féidir le tuismitheoirí agus caomhnóirí cúnamh a thabhairt dá bpáistí sa scoil Ghaeltachta?

An Naíonra: Má tá naíonra i do cheantar, moltar na páistí a chur ann, tabharfaidh sé tumadh sa teanga dóibh sula dtosaíonn siad ag an scoil Ghaeltachta áitiúil.

Úsáid an méid Gaeilge atá agat: Bíonn sé tábhachtach go léireoidh tuismitheoirí/caomhnóirí meon dearfach agus spreagúil i leith na scoile agus i leith na Gaeilge, fiú muna bhfuil Gaeilge ar a dtoil acu féin. Moltar an méid Gaeilge atá agat a úsáid le do pháiste, sa bhaile agus ar scoil. Bíonn tionchar ollmhór aige seo ar fhoghlaim agus ar rath na bpáistí ar scoil.

www.irishforparents.ie: Tá an suíomh idirlín seo curtha ar fáil ag Gaeloideachas chun cabhrú le tuismitheoirí/caomhnóirí a gcuid Gaeilge a fheabhsú, má tá suim acu sin a dhéanamh.

Eagraíocht Pleanála Teanga: Tá Eagraíochtaí Pleanála Teanga bunaithe i ngach Gaeltacht agus Oifigigh Pleanála Teanga fostaithe acu. Is fiú go mór fiosrú leo an bhfuil imeachtaí ar nós ranganna Gaeilge/imeachtaí sóisialta do thuismitheoirí ar bun acu i gcomhar leis an scoil áitiúil. Is féidir eolas a fháil faoi d'Eagraíocht Pleanála Teanga áitiúil anseo: *www.udaras.ie/an-ghaeilge-an-ghaeltacht/pleanail-teanga/*

Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta: Cuireann an eagraíocht náisiúnta Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta cúnamh agus comhairle ar fáil do theaghlaigh atá ag tógáil a gclann le Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht nó ar mian leo a leithéid a dhéanamh. Gach eolas ag: *www.tuismitheoiri.ie*

How can parents and guardians help their children in Gaeltacht schools?

The Naíonra (Preschool): If there is a naíonra in your area, it is recommended to send the children there, they will be immersed in the language before they start in the local Gaeltacht school.

Use the Irish you have: It is important for parents/guardians to display a positive and encouraging attitude towards the school and towards the Irish language, even if they don't speak fluent Irish themselves. Use whatever amount of Irish you have with your child, at home and in school. This has a great impact on your child's learning and success in school.

www.irishforparents.ie: This website is provided by Gaeloideachas to assist parents/guardians to improve their Irish, if they are interested in doing so.

Language Planning Organisation: There are Language Planning Organisations located in every Gaeltacht which employ Language Planning Officers. It is worth enquiring if they organise events such as Irish language classes/social events for parents in conjunction with the local school. You can get information about your local Language Planning Organisation here : *www.udaras.ie/an-ghaeilge-an-ghaeltacht/pleanail-teanga/*

Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta: The national organisation Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta provides assistance and support to families who are raising their children through Irish in the Gaeltacht or who wish to do so. All information is available at: *www.tuismitheoiri.ie*

Tacaíocht do Thuismitheoirí

Tá Gaeloideachas ann chun cabhrú leatsa agus le do pháiste ar aistear an oideachais Ghaeltachta. Táimid anseo má bhíonn cabhair nó comhairle uait!

- Abhcóideacht
- Físeáin ar neart topaicí **bit.ly/GaeloidYT**
- Bileoga eolais **bit.ly/BolscGaeloid**
- **IrishforParents.ie**
- Fóram Plé do Thuismitheoirí **bit.ly/FbGaeloidTuis**
- Cainteanna agus Seimineáir **bit.ly/Seimineáir**

Support for Parents

Gaeloideachas is here to support you and your child on your Gaeltacht education journey. If you need help or advice, we're here!

- Advocacy
- Videos on lots of topics **bit.ly/GaeloidYT**
- Information leaflets **bit.ly/GaeloidPromo**
- **IrishforParents.ie**
- Forum for Parents **bit.ly/FbGaeloidTuis**
- Talks and Seminars **https://bit.ly/Cláraigh**

Fúinn

Eagraíocht náisiúnta is ea Gaeloideachas, a thacaíonn le forbairt an oideachais Ghaeltachta agus lán-Ghaeilge in Éirinn.

Bunaíodh Gaeloideachas faoin ainm Gaelscoileanna in 1973 chun tacú le Gaelscoileanna, idir bhunscoileanna agus iar-bhunscoileanna. Laistigh de chúraimí na heagraíochta anois, tá soláthar seirbhísí tacaíochta do scoileanna Gaeltachta, naíonraí lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht agus seirbhísí do thuismitheoirí faoi churám na heagraíochta chomh maith.

Cuireann Gaeloideachas comhairle, cabhair agus tacaíocht ar fáil do thuismitheoirí ar mian leo go bhfreastalódh a bpáistí ar scoil Ghaeltachta nó scoil lán-Ghaeilge, chomh maith le seirbhísí tacaíochta agus abhcóideachta dóibh siúd atá ag obair san earnáil.

About us

Gaeloideachas is a national organisation supporting the development of Gaeltacht and Irish-medium education in Ireland.

Founded as Gaelscoileanna in 1973 to support primary and post-primary Irish-medium schools outside of the Gaeltacht, the organisation's remit now includes the provision of support services for Gaeltacht schools, for naíonraí (Irish-medium preschools) outside of the Gaeltacht, as well as for parents.

Gaeloideachas provides advice, assistance and support to parents who wish to have their children educated in a Gaeltacht or Irish-medium school, as well as support services and advocacy for those working in the sector.

Gorlann Ghnó na bhForbacha
Údarás na Gaeltachta
Na Forbacha, Co na Gaillimhe, H91 TY22, Éire
087-945 2452 / 087-915 5114

Halla Naomh Pádraig
Institiúid Oideachais Marino, Ascaill Uí Ghríofa
Baile Átha Cliath 9, D09 K4P6, Éire
+353-1-853 5195
eolas@gaeloideachas.ie www.gaeloideachas.ie

@Gaeloideachas
@Gaeloid
@gaeloideachas

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Guth don Oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta

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