

Consultation process towards the development of a policy on Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht

Online questionnaire

1. Background information

* Q1. Are you answering this survey as a: (select all that apply)

Parent/Guardian

Pupil/Student (or recent student)

Education professional (Teacher/SNA/Principal/Early Years Educator, etc.)

Other

If 'Other' is chosen for Question 1

Q2. If 'other', please specify here (optional)

* Q3. What best describes the area in which you live?

Rural

Urban

* Q4. Which county do you live in?

Q5. Can you speak Irish?

Yes, fluently

Yes, I speak it quite well

Yes, but not very well

Not really, just a few basic words and phrases

No, not at all

If 'Parent/Guardian' is chosen for Question 1

* Q6. My child attends/has attended (select all that apply):

An all-Irish early learning and care setting (for example, a naíonra)

An English speaking early learning and care setting

An all-Irish primary school (Gaelscoil)

An English speaking primary school

An all-Irish second level school (Gaelcholáiste)

An all-Irish unit/stream (Aonad/Sruth) in an English speaking second level school

An English speaking second level school

Other:

If 'Pupil/Student (or recent student)' is chosen for Question 1

* Q7. I attend/have attended (select all that apply):

An all-Irish early learning and care setting (for example, a naíonra)

An English speaking early learning and care setting

An all-Irish primary school (Gaelscoil)

An English speaking primary school

An all-Irish second level school (Gaelcholáiste)
An all-Irish unit/stream (Aonad/Sruth) in an English speaking second level school
An English speaking second level school
Other:

If 'Education professional' is chosen for Question 1

*Q8. What type of educational setting do you currently work in?

An all-Irish early learning and care setting (for example, a naíonra)
An English speaking early learning and care setting
An all-Irish primary school (Gaelscoil)
An English speaking primary school
An all-Irish post-primary school (Gaelcholáiste)
An all-Irish unit/stream (Aonad/Sruth) in an English speaking post-primary school
An English speaking post-primary school
Other:

If 'Education professional' is chosen for Question 1

*Q9. What is your role? (select all that apply)

Early years educator
Teacher
Principal
Special education teacher
Special needs assistant
Other:

If 'teacher' is chosen for Question 1 + a second level setting chosen for Question 8

Q10. If you teach at post-primary level, please select the subject(s) you are registered to teach.

_____ (list of subjects)

2. Increasing opportunities to access Irish-medium education

Q11. To what extent do you agree with the following statement(s). The new policy being developed should seek to significantly increase the opportunities for children and young people to receive their education through the medium of Irish.

Strongly agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting (for example Naíonraí/Gaelscoileanna/Gaelcholáistí)

Q12. Why did you choose an all-Irish setting/school for your child? (Select up to 5 reasons)

We speak Irish as our home language
I have an interest in Irish
I have heard that there are benefits to being multilingual
I chose the all-Irish setting/school because of its ethos (for example, multidenominational)
I chose the all-Irish school because it was co-educational (mixed-sex)
I felt the all-Irish setting/school had better facilities
I felt the all-Irish school had a better range of subjects
I felt the all-Irish setting/school had a better reputation
I felt the all-Irish setting/school would cater better for my child's special educational needs
I felt the all-Irish setting/school would cater better for my child's interests (sport, music, etc.)
Friends/family had sent/were sending their children to the all-Irish setting/school
My child wanted to attend the all-Irish school
Other:

For parents with children in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking)

Q13. You have indicated that your child attended an English speaking educational setting. Would you have liked your child to attend an all-Irish school/setting?

Yes

No

Don't know/Not sure

For parents with children in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking)

Q14. Why did you enrol your child in an English speaking setting (Select up to five reasons)

There was no all-Irish setting/school in my area

There were no places available in the all-Irish setting/school

There were no convenient transport links to the all-Irish school

I chose the English speaking school because of its ethos (for example, multidenominational)

I chose the English speaking school because it was single-sex

I felt the English speaking school had better facilities

I felt the English speaking school had a better range of subjects

I felt the English speaking school had a better reputation

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my child's special educational needs

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my child's interests (sport, music, etc.)

Friends/family had sent/were sending their children to the English speaking school

I was concerned that I (or my partner) would not have enough Irish to support my child's education

My child wanted to attend the English speaking school

Other:

For parents with children in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking)

Q15. Is there anything that would have encouraged you to choose Irish-medium education for your child?

For students in an English speaking school

Q16. Why did you choose to attend an English speaking school? (Select up to five reasons)

I had no particular interest in Irish

I thought it would be too difficult to study in Irish

There was no all-Irish school in my area

There were no places in the all-Irish school

There were no transport links to the all-Irish school

I chose the English speaking school because of its ethos (for example, multidenominational)

I chose the English speaking school because it was single-sex

I felt the English speaking school had better facilities

I felt the English speaking school had a better range of subjects

I felt the English speaking school had a better reputation

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my special educational needs

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my interests (sport, music, etc.)

My friends/family were going there (or went there)

My parents chose the English speaking school

Other:

For students in an English speaking school

Q17. Is there anything that would have encouraged you to choose an all-Irish school?

For students in an all-Irish setting

Q18. Why did you choose to attend an all-Irish school? (Select up to 5 reasons).

My family speaks Irish at home

I had an interest in Irish

I had heard that there are benefits to being multilingual

I chose the all-Irish school because of its ethos (for example, multidenominational)

I chose the all-Irish school because it was co-educational (mixed-sex)

I felt the all-Irish school had better facilities

I felt the all-Irish school had a better range of subjects

I felt the all-Irish school had a better reputation

I felt the all-Irish school would cater better for my special educational needs

I felt the all-Irish school would cater better for my interests (sport, music, etc.)

My friends/family were going there (or went there)

My parents chose the all-Irish school

Other:

For education professionals in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking)

Q19. Why did you choose to work in an English speaking setting? (Select up to three reasons)

I don't speak Irish

I didn't feel my Irish would be good enough

I have no particular interest in Irish

There is no all-Irish school/setting in my area

I felt the English speaking school/setting had a better reputation

The position in the English speaking school/setting was more attractive (for example, more teaching hours, a permanent contract)

Other:

For education professionals in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking)

Q20. Is there anything that would have encouraged you to choose to work in an all-Irish setting?

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting (for example Naíonraí/Gaelscoileanna/Gaelcholáistí)

Q21. Why did you choose to work in an all-Irish setting? (Select up to three reasons.)

I speak Irish fluently

I have a particular interest in Irish

The all-Irish school/setting was convenient to where I live

I felt the all-Irish school/setting had a better reputation

The position in the all-Irish school/setting was more attractive (for example, more teaching hours, a permanent contract)

Other:

Q22. How could people be encouraged to choose Irish-medium education?

3. Transition to second level school,

For parents with children in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking)

Q23. You have indicated that you have a child who attends/attended an English speaking second level school. Can you confirm if they attended an all-Irish primary school?

Yes

No

For parents with children in ELC/primary/second level settings (English speaking) + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 23

Q24. What were your reasons for choosing an English speaking second level school for your child? (Choose up to 5 reasons).

There was no all-Irish second level school in my area

There were no places available in the all-Irish second level school

There were better transport links to the English speaking school

I chose the English speaking school because of its ethos (for example, multid denominational)

I chose the English speaking school because it was single-sex

I felt the English speaking school had better facilities

I felt the English speaking school had a better range of subjects

I felt the English speaking school had a better reputation

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my child's special educational needs

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my child's interests (sport, music, etc.)

I felt it would be too difficult for my child to study in Irish at second level

I was concerned that I (or my partner) would not have enough Irish to support my child's education at second level

Friends/family sent/were sending their children to the English speaking school

My child wanted to attend an English speaking second level school

Other:

For students in an English speaking school

Q25. You have indicated that you attend/attended an English speaking second level school. Did you attend an all-Irish primary school?

Yes

No

For students in an English speaking school + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 25

Q26. What were/are your reasons for choosing to attend an English speaking second level school? (Select up to five reasons)

There was no all-Irish second level school in my area

There were no places available in the all-Irish second level school

There were better transport links to the English speaking school

I chose the English speaking school because of its ethos (for example, multid denominational)

I chose the English speaking school because it was single-sex

I felt the English speaking school had better facilities

I felt the English speaking school had a better range of subjects

I felt the English speaking school had a better reputation

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my special educational needs

I felt the English speaking school would cater better for my interests (sport, music, etc.)

I didn't think my Irish was good enough

I thought I would do better in my Leaving Certificate in an English speaking school

Friends/family went/were going to the English speaking school

My parents chose the English speaking school

Other:

Q27. In your opinion, what could be done to encourage pupils from all-Irish primary schools to continue their education in all-Irish second level schools?

4. Strengthening and supporting the delivery of all-Irish education

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting (for example Naíonraí/Gaelscoileanna/Gaelcholáistí) + For students in an all-Irish setting + For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q28. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? There are sufficient Irish-medium classroom resources and textbooks available to support teaching and learning in Irish-medium contexts.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting (for example Naíonraí/Gaelscoileanna/Gaelcholáistí) + For students in an all-Irish setting + For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q29. There are sufficient Irish-medium digital resources available to support teaching and learning in Irish-medium contexts.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting (for example Naíonraí/Gaelscoileanna/Gaelcholáistí) + For students in an all-Irish setting + For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q30. There are sufficient language supports available for students in all-Irish schools who need extra help with Irish (for example, teachers teaching subject-specific language).

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For students in an all-Irish setting

Q.31. Were there any subjects that you wanted to study but couldn't as they were not available in your school?

Yes

No

For students in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 31

Q.32. Which subjects?

_____ (list of subjects)

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting

Q.33. Have there been any subjects that your child wanted to study but which were not available in their school?

Yes

No

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 33

Q34. Which subjects?

_____ (list of subjects)

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q35. Did you undertake your initial education training/qualification through the medium of Irish?

Yes

No

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q36. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? There were opportunities within my initial education training/qualification to prepare me to work in an all-Irish setting.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting + If 'No' is chosen for Question 35

Q37. I would have chosen an Irish-medium initial education training/qualification if this option had been available.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q38. There is sufficient continuing professional development available to me to support my work in an all-Irish setting.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q39. There are sufficient Irish-medium assessment tools available to support my teaching and professional practice in an all-Irish setting.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q40. As an education professional, I feel I have a sufficiently high standard of Irish to work effectively through the medium of Irish.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q41. As an education professional, I feel there are sufficient supports available to help improve my language skills, if needed.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

■ Q42. In your opinion, what are the main challenges in the delivery of high-quality Irish-medium education? How can these challenges be addressed to strengthen and support provision in the sector?

5. Special educational needs in Irish-medium education settings and schools

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting

Q43. Do you have a child with special educational needs?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

For students in an all-Irish setting

Q44. Do you have special educational needs?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

■ Q45. To what extent do you agree with the following statement(s)? All-Irish education can cater effectively for children and young people with special educational needs.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 43

Q46. As a parent, I have found that Irish-medium education settings are successful in identifying special educational needs.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 43

Q47. As a parent, I have found that Irish-medium education settings are successful in supporting the needs and abilities of children/young people with special educational needs.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For students in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 44

Q48. I feel my school was successful in identifying my special educational needs.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For students in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 44

Q49. I feel my school is/was successful in supporting my needs and abilities.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q50. As an education professional, I feel Irish-medium education settings are successful in identifying the special educational needs of children and young people.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q51. As an education professional, I feel Irish-medium education settings are successful in supporting the needs and abilities of children/young people with special educational needs.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q52. My initial education training/qualification prepared me to support children/young people with special educational needs through the medium of Irish.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q53. Training/continuing professional development (CPD) is available to support me in identifying and supporting the needs of children/young people with special educational needs in an all-Irish setting.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know/Not sure

Q54. In what ways, do you think, support for children and young people with special educational needs in Irish-medium education can be enhanced?

6. Equality, diversity and inclusion in Irish-medium education

Q55. What do you think could be done to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in Irish-medium education?

7. Irish in educational settings and the wider community

■ Q56. To what extent do you agree with the following statement(s)? The education system has a role to play in increasing the use of Irish in the community.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know/Not sure

■ Q57. I feel I have a role to play in promoting the use of Irish in the local community.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting

Q58. As a parent/guardian, how often do you speak Irish to your child(ren)?

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting

Q59. As a parent/guardian, does your child's school/setting actively promote the Irish language within the community?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Not sure

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 59

Q60. Please give examples of how your child's school/setting promotes Irish within the community.

For parents of children in an all-Irish setting

Q61. In which language does your child's school/setting issue communications to parents (For example, newsletter, notes, etc.)?

- Only in English
- Mainly in English
- Bilingually (50/50)
- Mainly in Irish
- Only in Irish

For students in an all-Irish setting

Q62. How often do you use Irish with other students in your school (outside of class)? (If you have recently left school, please indicate how often you did use Irish in school.)

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

For students in an all-Irish setting

Q63. How often do you use Irish outside of school?

Always

Most of the time

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

For students in an all-Irish setting

Q64. What has your school done that has encouraged students to speak Irish in school (outside of the classroom)?

Q65. Does your school actively promote the Irish language within the community (outside of school)?

Yes

No

Don't know/Not sure

For students in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 65

Q66. Please give examples of how your school promotes Irish within the community

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q67. As an education professional, how often do you use Irish to communicate with children/young people in the classroom?

Always

Most of the time

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Not applicable

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q68. As an education professional, how often do you use Irish to communicate with children/young people in the classroom?

Always

Most of the time

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Not applicable

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q69. As an education professional, how often do you use Irish to communicate with children/young people in the classroom?

Always

Most of the time

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Not applicable

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q70. What has your school/setting done that has been successful in promoting the use of Irish within the school/setting?

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q71. Does your school/setting actively promote the Irish language within the community (outside of the school)?

Yes

No

Don't know/Not sure

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting + If 'Yes' is chosen for Question 71

Q72. Please give examples of how your school/setting promotes Irish within the community.

For Education Professionals in an all-Irish setting

Q73. In which language does the school/setting in which you work issue communications to parents? (For example, newsletters, notes, etc.).

Only in English

Mainly in English

Bilingually (50/50)

Mainly in Irish

Only in Irish

■ Q74. How do you think greater links could be created between all-Irish schools/settings and the wider community to foster greater use of Irish within the community?

8. Policy Direction

■ Q75. In developing this policy, which of the following do you think the Department should prioritise to have the greatest impact on Irish-medium education? (Choose up to five options.)

Teaching some subjects from a remote digital hub to expand the range of subjects available through the medium of Irish

Establishing new all-Irish schools/settings where there are none available

Training for teachers/educators on immersion education methodology

Financial incentives to attract teachers/educators to Irish-medium education

Supports for parents who don't speak Irish who would like to choose Irish-medium education for their children

More teachers and early years educators for Irish-medium education

Developing and implementing standards for Gaelscoileanna/Gaelcholáistí

Clear process to facilitate English speaking schools to transition to all-Irish schools

Increasing the availability of resources (textbooks, online resources, etc.) in Irish

Developing and implementing standards for all-Irish units/streams (Aonaid/Sruthanna) in English speaking schools

Increasing awareness of the benefits of Irish-medium education

Funding research on Irish-medium education

Irish language classes for teachers/educators who would like to work in Irish-medium education

Measures to support young people with special educational needs in Irish-medium settings

Facilitating links between all-Irish schools and Gaeltacht schools

Measures to support increased diversity and inclusion in Irish-medium settings

Other:

Q76. Please use the space below to add any additional comments/observations you may have on the development of the new policy on Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht.

* Respondent must answer this question if it arises in order to proceed with the questionnaire

Everyone who answers the questionnaire will receive this question.