Freagraí Gaeloideachas ar an gComhairliúchán Poiblí faoi Phlean Náisiúnta um Sholáthar Gaeilge i bhFoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige agus sa Chúram Leanaí in Aois Scoile

The English version begins on page 6.

Seo thíos na freagraí a thug Gaeloideachas ar an suirbhé. Tagann an téacs ón suirbhé féin, tá na freagraí aibhsithe i mbuí, agus tá nóta i nglas faoi gach ceann a thugann comhthéacs.

Tá an suirbhé ar fáil anseo. Dúnann an tréimhse chomhairliúcháin ag 17.00 ar an 12 Iúil 2024.

Cad air is cóir díriú sa phlean náisiúnta chun béim a chur ar an nGaeilge i bhFoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige? Léirigh an trí phríomhthosaíocht gur chóir díriú orthu, in ord tosaíochta.

- Úsáid na Gaeilge i suíomhanna lán-Bhéarla
- Feasacht ar an nGaeilge i suíomhanna lán-Bhéarla
- Ag cinntiú go bhfuil rochtain ag gach páiste ar shuíomh lán-Ghaeilge ina cheantar áitiúil
- Ag cinntiú go bhfuil deis ag gach páiste an Ghaeilge a chloisteáil agus a úsáid sa suíomh um fhoghlaim
- Ag cur le deiseanna leanaí plé leis an nGaeilge agus í a shealbhú agus a úsáid
- Cabhrú le húsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú i suíomhanna a úsáideann Béarla agus Gaeilge araon
- Cabhrú le suíomhanna a fheidhmíonn trí mheán an Bhéarla amháin beagán Gaeilge a thriail

Fís Gaeloideachas ná go mbeidh spás i naíonra áitiúil ar fáil do gach páiste, agus go mbeidh luath-thumoideachas ar ardchaighdeán á sholáthar dóibh.

Cad air gur chóir díriú sa phlean náisiúnta chun béim a chur ar an nGaeilge i gCúram Leanaí in Aois Scoile? Cuir tic le do thoil, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha a cheapann tú ba chóir a bheith mar phríomhfhócas tacaíochta.

- Úsáid na Gaeilge i suíomhanna lán-Bhéarla
- Feasacht ar an nGaeilge i suíomhanna lán-Bhéarla
- Ag cinntiú go bhfuil rochtain ag gach páiste ar shuíomh lán-Ghaeilge ina cheantar áitiúil
- Ag cinntiú go bhfuil deis ag gach páiste an Ghaeilge a chloisteáil agus a úsáid sa suíomh um fhoghlaim
- Deiseanna a mhéadú do pháistí dul i ngleic leis an nGaeilge, í a shealbhú agus a úsáid
- Cabhrú le húsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú i suíomhanna a úsáideann Béarla agus Gaeilge araon
- Cabhrú le suíomhanna a fheidhmíonn trí mheán an Bhéarla amháin beagán Gaeilge a thriall

Molann Gaeloideachas go mbeidh spás i seirbhís áitiúil ar fáil do gach páiste, agus go mbeidh cúram ar ardchaighdeán trí mheán na Gaeilge á sholáthar dóibh.

Cad iad na príomhbhuntáistí a bhaineann le níos mó suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a chur ar fáil? Cuir tic, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha is tábhachtaí i do thuairim.

- Ionchuimsiú
- Freastal ar shuim na dtuismitheoirí
- Sásamh pearsanta ann don oideoir/chleachtóir
- Tacaíonn sé le páistí socrú isteach ar scoil
- Tairbhe Oideachais
- Tairbhe shóisialta
- Eile

Léiríonn an taighde ar an tumoideachas go bhfuil buntáistí cognaíocha, cumarsáide, sóisialta agus acadúla ann don pháiste.
Cé go bhfuil éileamh ar oideachas lán-Ghaeilge ag 23% i measc tuismitheoirí na tíre de réir taighde, níl fáil ag gach páiste sa tír ar oideachas leanúnach trí Ghaeilge.

Cad iad na príomhbhuntáistí a bhaineann le níos mó suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge um Chúram Leanaí in Aois Scoile a chur ar fail? Cuir tic, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha is tábhachtaí i do thuairim.

- Ionchuimsiú
- Freastal ar shuim na dtuismitheoirí
- Sásamh pearsanta ann don oideoir/chleachtóir
- Tacaíonn sé le páistí socrú isteach ar scoil
- Tairbhe Oideachais
- Tairbhe shóisialta
- Eile

Mar atá thuas.

Cad iad na príomhbhuntáistí a bhaineann le Gaeilge a úsáid níos minice i suíomhanna ELC lán-Bhéarla? Cuir tic, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha is tábhachtaí i do thuairim.

- Ionchuimsiú
- Freastal ar shuim na dtuismitheoirí
- Sásamh pearsanta ann don oideoir/chleachtóir
- Tacaíonn sé le páistí socrú isteach ar scoil
- Tairbhe Oideachais
- Tairbhe shóisialta
- Eile

Mar atá thuas.

Cad iad na príomhchonstaicí a bhaineann le suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a chur ar fáil? Cuir tic, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha is tábhachtaí i do thuairim.

- Níl go leor oideoirí a bhfuil a dhóthain Gaeilge labhartha acu ar fáil
- Easpa cláir oiliúna tosaigh trí Ghaeilge ag leibhéal 5-6 den Chreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí
- Easpa cláir oiliúna tosaigh trí Ghaeilge ag leibhéal 7-8 den Chreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí
- Easpa acmhainní um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach ar úsáid na Gaeilge i suíomhanna
- Easpa acmhainní Gaeilge um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach a chuireann béim ar chaighdeán i suíomhanna
- Easpa rochtain ar eagraíochtaí tacaíochta Gaeilge
- Easpa tacaíocht airgeadais do shuíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Easpa rochtain ar mheantóirí/chomhairleoirí le Gaeilge chun tacú le suíomhanna ar sholáthar ELC trí Gaeilge
- Easpa aitheantais do shuíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Easpa tacaíocht airgeadais do bhaill foirne chun tabhairt faoi chúrsaí Gaeilge

Is bun fhadhb é nach bhfuil meicníocht ag an Stát le stádas uathúil an naíonra mar shuíomh luath-thumoideachais a aithint agus a dhearbhú. Dá réir, níl cearta nó cosaint ar leith ag na seirbhísí atá ag feidhmiú trí Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Ní fhaigheann naíonraí lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht aon tacaíocht bhreise ó na forais Stáit, cé go bhfuil riachtanais bhreise acu mar suíomhanna luath-thumoideachais.

De réir tuairiscí atá faighte ag Gaeloideachas ó naíonraí a dhún le blianta beaga anuas, is toisc nárbh fhéidir foireann le Gaeilge a earcú nó a choinneáil don chuid is mó a dúnadh na seirbhísí lán-Ghaeilge, nó a chuireann bac orthu oscailt ar an gcéad dul síos. Tá géarchéim earcaíochta in earnáil na luathbhlianta i gcoitinne, ach tá sé níos géire sna naíonraí, ach go háirithe mar a bhaineann le foireann a earcú le tacú le hoideachas speisialta sna luathbhlianta.

Go hiondúil, is uaireanta páirtaimseartha a bhíonn i gceist d'fhoireann na naíonraí lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht agus feidhmíonn siad de réir féilire na scoilbhliana. Tá na rátaí pá san earnáil íseal go fóill, agus ní íoctar foireann le linn na saoire. Tá na naíonraí lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht in iomaíocht le hearnáil na mbunscoileanna, áit ina bhfuil pá agus cúinsí oibre níos fearr ar fáil, agus an-éileamh ar daoine le Gaeilge.

Cad iad na príomhchonstaicí a bhaineann le suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge um Chúram Leanaí in Aois Scoile a chur ar fáil? Cuir tic, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha is tábhachtaí i do thuairim.

- Níl go leor oideoirí a bhfuil a dhóthain Gaeilge labhartha acu ar fáil
- Easpa acmhainní um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach ar úsáid na Gaeilge i suíomhanna
- Easpa acmhainní Gaeilge um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach a chuireann béim ar chaighdeán i suíomhanna
- Easpa rochtain ar eagraíochtaí tacaíochta Gaeilge
- Easpa tacaíocht airgeadais do shuíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Easpa rochtain ar mheantóirí/chomhairleoirí le Gaeilge chun tacú le suíomhanna ar sholáthar SAC trí Gaeilge
- Easpa aitheantais do shuíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Easpa tacaíocht airgeadais do bhaill foirne chun tabhairt faoi chúrsaí Gaeilge

Mar atá thuas.

Cad iad na príomhchonstaicí a bhaineann le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge i suíomhanna ELC lán-Bhéarla, dar leat? Cuir tic, le do thoil, suas le trí rogha is tábhachtaí i do thuairim.

- Níl go leor oideoirí a bhfuil a dhóthain Gaeilge labhartha acu ar fáil
- Easpa cláir oiliúna tosaigh trí Ghaeilge ag leibhéal 5-6 den Chreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí
- Easpa cláir oiliúna tosaigh trí Ghaeilge ag leibhéal 7-8 den Chreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí
- Easpa acmhainní um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach ar úsáid na Gaeilge i suíomhanna
- Easpa acmhainní Gaeilge um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach a chuireann béim ar chaighdeán i suíomhanna
- Easpa rochtain ar eagraíochtaí tacaíochta Gaeilge
- Easpa tacaíocht airgeadais do shuíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Easpa rochtain ar mheantóirí/chomhairleoirí le Gaeilge chun tacú le suíomhanna ar sholáthar ELC trí Gaeilge
- Easpa tacaíocht airgeadais do bhaill foirne chun tabhairt faoi chúrsaí Gaeilge

Tá géarchéim earcaíochta in earnáil na luathbhlianta i gcoitinne, ach tá sé níos géire mar a bhaineann le foireann a earcú le cumas sa Ghaeilge.
Níl aon eagraíocht cumasaithe nó freagrach as tacú le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge i seirbhísí meán-Bhéarla.

Cad a spreagfadh oideoirí luathbhlianta agus cleachtóirí SAC tabhairt faoi uasoiliúint? Cuir tic le do thoil suas le trí rogha is éifeachtaí.

- Clúdach a bheith ar fáil agus an fhoireann ag tabhairt faoi fhorbairt ghairmiúil
- Teastas rannpháirtíochta
- Cáilíocht níos foirmiúla
- Dianchúrsaí cónaithe gairide
- Meantóireacht leantach
- Uasoiliúint teanga a chur ar fáil trí bheith ag foghlaim faoi achar curaclaim/achar ábhartha oibre trí Ghaeilge

An bhfuil aon tuairimí nó aiseolas eile agat maidir lena spreagfadh oideoirí luathbhlianta agus cleachtóirí SAC tabhairt faoi uasoiliúint? Inis dúinn a thuilleadh.

Liúntas as bheith ag obair trí mheán na Gaeilge. Tá gá le hinfheistíocht straitéiseach sna luathbhlianta lán-Ghaeilge le scéim a chabhróidh le naíonraí múinteoirí a earcú, a chumasú agus a choinneáil agus luath-thumoideachais ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil do pháistí óga.

Conas ba chóir don Stát tacú le suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge? Léirigh an trí phríomhthosaíocht gur chóir tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh.

- Acmhainní chun ealaíona teangabhunaithe na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn mar shampla amhráin, rannta, scéalta
- Maoiniú forbartha caipitil
- Cuairteanna um comhairle, um meantóireacht agus um cigire ar na suíomhanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge
- Maoiniú chun breis ama a thabhairt don fhoireann i gcomhair Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach
- Tacaíocht do rannpháirtíocht i gcúrsaí Gaeilge
- Cúrsaí oiliúna chun tacú le feidhmiú suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Socrúchán nó cuairt Gaeilge mar chuid den oiliúint tosaigh ag leibhéil 5-8 den Chreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí
- Deontas tionscnaimh (le tacú le suíomh a oscailt)
- Maoiniú breise chun seirbhísí a spreagadh le bheith ina suíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge
- Ranganna Gaeilge
- Ní dóigh liom gur chóir don Stát tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil
- Tacaíochtaí comhairleacha agus meantóireachta ag cur le deiseanna leanaí plé leis an nGaeilge agus í a shealbhú agus a úsáid

Tá gá le scéim aitheantais don luath-thumoideachas sna luathbhlianta, le scéim dearbhú cáilíochta a chuireann tacaíochtaí cuí ar fáil do na naíonraí agus do na páistí atá faoina gcúram.

Tá gá le scéim fóirdheontais do naíonraí le cinntiú go mbeidh siad inmharthana agus go mbeidh siad cumasaithe le luath-thumoideachas ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil do na páistí atá faoina gcúram.

An dóigh leat gur chóir don Stát tacú le suíomhanna ELC/SAC dátheangacha?

- Is dóigh
- Ní dóigh

Tabhair breis eolais le do thoil

Is fiú tacú le húsáid Gaeilge i ngach suíomh.

Is gá, áfach, a chinntiú nach lagaíonn nó nach laghdaíonn sé na tacaíochtaí a chuirfear ar fáil do suíomhanna tumoideachais lán-Ghaeilge.

Gaeloideachas
Guth don Oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta

Gaeloideachas' response to the survey as part of the Public Consultation on a National Plan for Irish-Language Provision in Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare

Below are the responses Gaeloideachas has given to the survey. The text has been taken from the survey itself, the responses are highlighted in yellow, and there is also a note from Gaeloideachas in green below each one that gives further context.

The survey can be found here. The consultation period ends at 17.00 on 12 July 2024.

What do you think the national plan should primarily focus on in promoting the Irish language in Early Learning and Care? Please tick up to three options that you think should be a primary focus of support.

- Use of Irish in English medium settings
- An awareness of the Irish Language in English-medium settings
- Making sure that every child has access to an Irish-medium setting in their local area
- Making sure that every child has an opportunity to hear and use Irish in their early learning and care setting
- Increasing opportunities for children to engage with, acquire and use Irish
- Supporting greater use of Irish in settings that use both English and Irish
- Introducing some Irish into settings that currently use English only

Gaeloideachas' vision is that there should be a place available in a local naíonra for every child and that early immersion education of a high standard should be provided.

What do you think the national plan should primarily focus on in promoting the Irish language in School-age Childcare? Please tick up to three options that you think should be a primary focus of support.

- Use of Irish in English medium settings
- An awareness of the Irish Language in English-medium settings
- Making sure that every child has access to an Irish-medium setting in their local area
- Making sure that every child has an opportunity to hear and use Irish in their School-age Childcare setting
- Increasing opportunities for children to engage with, acquire and use Irish
- Supporting greater use of Irish in settings that use both English and Irish
- Introducing some Irish into settings that currently use English only

Gaeloideachas recommends that a place should be available in a local service to every child and that care of a high standard through the medium of Irish should be provided.

What do you see as the main benefits to greater availability of Irish-medium Early Learning and Care settings? Please tick up to three options that you think are most important.

- Catering to interest from parents
- Personally fulfilling to the educator/practitioner
- Helps children transition to school
- Educational Benefit
- Social benefit
- Other

The research on immersion education shows that there are cognitive, communicative, social and academic benefits for the child. And although research shows that 23% of the country's parents would choose Irish-medium education if it were available in their area, not all children have access to education through the medium of Irish in Ireland.

What do you see as the main benefits to greater availability of Irish-medium School-Age Care settings? Please tick up to three options that you think are most important.

- Inclusion
- Catering to interest from parents
- Personally fulfilling to the educator/practitioner
- Helps children transition to school
- Educational Benefit
- Social benefit
- Other

As above.

What do you see as the main benefits to greater use of the Irish Language in English-medium ELC settings? Please tick up to three options that you think are most important.

- Inclusion
- Catering to interest from parents
- Personally fulfilling to the educator/practitioner
- Helps children transition to school
- Educational Benefit
- Social benefit
- Other

As above.

What do you see as the main barriers to greater availability of Irish-medium Early Learning and Care settings? Please tick up to three options that you think most important.

- Not enough educators with a sufficient level of spoken Irish
- Lack of initial training programmes in Irish at levels 5-6 on the National Framework of Qualifications
- Lack of initial training programmes in Irish at level 7-8 on the National Framework of Qualifications
- Lack of CPD resources on use of Irish in settings
- Lack of CPD resources in Irish with a focus on quality in settings
- Lack of access to Irish-speaking support organisations
- Lack of financial supports for Irish-medium settings
- Lack of access to Irish-speaking mentors / advisors to support settings on Early Learning and Care provision through Irish
- Lack of recognition for Irish-medium settings
- Lack of financial support for staff to undertake Irish language courses

It is a fundamental problem that the State does not have a mechanism to recognise and affirm the unique status of the naíonra as a setting that provides early immersion. As a consequence of this, the naíonraí operating through Irish outside the Gaeltacht do not have special rights or protection. Naíonraí outside Gaeltacht areas do not receive any additional supports from State agencies, even though they have additional requirements as early immersion Irish-medium settings.

Naíonraí that have closed in recent years have reported to Gaeloideachas that it is primarily because it was not possible to recruit or retain Irish-speaking staff that their services were forced to close, or that they were prevented from opening in the first place. There is a recruitment crisis in the early years sector in general, but it is more acute in the naíonraí, most especially when it comes to recruiting Irish-speaking staff to support special education in the early years.

Typically, the staff in naíonraí outside Gaeltacht areas are part-time and work according to the school year calendar. Pay rates in the sector are low, and staff are not paid during the holidays. The naíonraí outside Gaeltacht areas are in competition with the primary school sector, where better pay and working conditions are available, and staff with fluency in Irish are in high demand.

What do you see as the main barriers to greater availability of Irish-medium School-Age Childcare settings? Please tick up to three options that you think most important.

- Not enough educators with a sufficient level of spoken Irish
- Lack of CPD resources on use of Irish in settings
- Lack of CPD resources in Irish with a focus on quality in settings
- Lack of access to Irish-speaking support organisations
- Lack of financial supports for Irish-medium settings
- Lack of access high quality Irish-speaking mentors / advisors to provide language support settings on School-Age Childcare provision through Irish
- Lack of recognition for Irish-medium settings
- Lack of financial support for staff to undertake Irish language courses

As above.

What do you see as the main barriers to greater use of the Irish language in English-medium settings? Please tick up to three options that you think most important.

- Not enough educators with a sufficient level of spoken Irish
- Lack of initial training programmes in Irish at levels 5-6 on the National Framework of Qualifications
- Lack of initial training programmes in Irish at level 7-8 on the National Framework of Qualifications
- Lack of CPD resources on use of Irish in settings
- Lack of CPD resources in Irish with a focus on quality in settings
- Lack of access to Irish-speaking support organisations
- Lack of financial supports for Irish-medium settings
- Lack of access to Irish-speaking mentors / advisors to support settings on Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare provision through Irish
- Lack of financial support for staff to undertake Irish language courses

There is a recruitment crisis in the early years sector in general, but it is more acute when it comes to recruiting Irish-speaking staff.

At present, there is no organisation with the capacity or the responsibility for supporting the promotion of the Irish language in English-medium services.

What would encourage early years educators and SAC practitioners to take part in upskilling?

- Cover while staff taking part in professional development
- A certificate of participation
- A more formal qualification
- Intensive residential short courses
- Follow up mentoring
- Upskilling in language to be offered by learning about a curricular area/a work relevant area through Irish

Any other ideas or feedback on what would encourage early years educators and SAC practitioners to take part in upskilling? Tell us more.

An allowance for staff working through the medium of Irish.

There is a need for strategic investment in Irish-medium early years with a scheme that will help recruit, build capacity and retain naíonra teachers and provide high-quality early immersion education for young children.

How should the State be supporting Irish-medium ELC/SAC settings? Please select up to three priorities.

- Resources to promote Irish language based arts for example songs, rhymes, stories
- Capital build funding
- Advisory, mentoring and inspection visits to settings conducted through Irish.
- Funding to support additional staff time for Irish language CPD
- Support for participation in Irish language courses
- Training courses to support operation of Irish-medium settings
- Irish language placement or visit as part of initial training at levels 5-8 on the National Framework Qualifications
- Start-up grant
- Additional funding to incentivise services to be Irish-medium settings
- Irish language classes
- I do not think the state should provide supports
- Advisory and mentoring supports to increase positive opportunities for children to engage with, acquire and use Irish
- I do not think the state should provide supports

We need a scheme to recognise naíonraí providing early immersion education, alongside a quality assurance scheme that provides appropriate supports for the naíonraí and the children in their care.

There is a need for a subsidy scheme for naíonraí to guarantee their viability and to ensure they are enabled to provide early immersion education of a high standard to the children in their care.

Do you think the state should support bilingual ELC/SAC settings?

- Yes
- No

The use of Irish in all services should be supported. It is necessary, however, to ensure it does not weaken or reduce the supports that will be provided to Irish-medium immersion settings.