

Subject:

**DELIVERY OF THE REVISED CURRICULUM IN
IRISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND
UNITS**

Circular Number:

2009/11

Date of Issue:

26 June 2009

Target Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided Irish-medium Primary Schools and Primary Schools with Irish-medium Units;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
- NICIE; and
- Teachers' Unions

Summary of Contents:

The purpose of this circular is to provide advice to Irish medium primary schools and units in relation to the delivery of the statutory revised curriculum.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

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Governor Awareness:

Essential

Status of Contents:

Advice / Information
for schools

Related Documents:

“The Northern Ireland Curriculum, Primary (Irish Medium)” guidance for IM primary schools and units

Superseded Documents:

Not applicable

Expiry Date:

Not applicable

DENI Website:

<http://www.deni.gov.uk>

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1. This circular provides advice to Irish-medium primary schools and units in relation to the delivery of the statutory revised curriculum.
2. The statutory areas of learning and contributory elements of the revised primary curriculum, and the cross-curricular skills and other skills which form part of the statutory primary curriculum, are set out in the Annex. Details of the statutory minimum content of the curriculum are given in the Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) Order (NI) 2007, which can be accessed via the Curriculum and Assessment section of the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk.
3. However, the Department and its Education and Training Inspectorate appreciate that in the Irish-medium sector, particularly at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, immersion education takes place, and that pupils enter schools with differing levels of Irish language experience. In this context, following discussion between the Department, the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and the Irish-medium sector on how Irish-medium primary schools and units are to ensure that they meet the requirements of the statutory curriculum, "The Northern Ireland Curriculum, Primary (Irish Medium)" guidance has been developed by a working group chaired by CCEA and including a range of representatives and practitioners from the Irish-medium sector.
4. This document, which has been circulated to schools and is available on the nicurriculum website – www.nicurriculum.org.uk –, provides guidance and support on the delivery of the revised curriculum in the specific context of the Irish-medium primary sector.
5. The Department of Education considers that the guidance is consistent with the statutory requirements of the revised curriculum and that, in following the guidance, principals and teachers will be meeting those requirements.



BRIAN MORROW
CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT TEAM

STATUTORY REVISED CURRICULUM

The statutory areas of learning and contributory elements of the revised curriculum for each of the primary key stages are as follows:

Foundation Stage Area of Learning	Contributory Elements	Key Stages 1 &2 Area of Learning	Contributory Elements
Language and Literacy	Talking and Listening Reading Writing	Language and Literacy	Talking and listening Reading Writing
Mathematics and Numeracy	Number Measures Shape and space Sorting Patterns and relationships	Mathematics and Numeracy	Processes in mathematics Number Measures Shape and space Handling data
The Arts	Art and design Music Drama	The Arts	Art and design Music Drama
The World Around Us	The World Around Us	The World Around Us	History Geography Science and technology
Personal development and mutual understanding	Personal understanding and health Mutual understanding in the local and wider community	Personal Development and mutual understanding	Personal understanding and health Mutual understanding in the local and wider community
Physical Development and Movement	Physical Development and Movement	Physical Education	Physical Education
Religious Education *		Religious Education*	

*Content defined by DE in conjunction with the four main Christian Churches.

In addition to the curricular areas, the cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT, and the other skills of Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision- Making; Self-Management; Working with Others; Managing Information; and Being Creative are statutory across Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 & 2.