

# REVIEW OF IRISH MEDIUM EDUCATION

## Consultation Response

### Children and Young People's Version

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

School Ref No: \_\_\_\_\_ *(if applicable)*

Contact Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_



Department of  
**Education**

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AN ROINN  
**Oideachais**

MÁNNYSTRIE O  
**Lear**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Introduction

Some children go to a school where the teachers usually speak English. The girls and boys learn how to read and write English, as well as speak it. Other children go to schools where the teachers usually speak Irish. When these girls and boys leave school they can read, write and speak in Irish and in English.

We need to make sure that all schools are able to look after and teach their children well. The schools where the teachers speak English are doing a good job. So are the schools where the teachers speak Irish. But Irish language schools have not been here for as long as English language schools. This means there are some things we need do, and our ideas are in this book. We really want to find out what you think of our ideas, and if you have any ideas of your own.

We will read your ideas and see how we can use them. We are really looking forward to hearing from you.

# Our Ideas

## Idea 1

Around the world some children begin learning a new language before they go to primary school. Some start to learn a new language at primary school, while others don't learn a new language until after they leave primary school.

Children that start to learn Irish before they go to primary school usually learn it at a playgroup. Sometimes parents have to pay if they want their child to go to a playgroup that speaks Irish. But they would not have to pay if their child went to a playgroup that spoke English. This gave us our next idea.

Should Parents pay extra for their children to go to Irish speaking playgroups?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## Idea 2

Most children that go to a primary school that speaks Irish have been to a playgroup that speaks Irish. Teachers think that this makes it easier for the children to speak Irish in P1.

Other children that want to go to a primary school that speaks Irish have been to a playgroup that speaks English. When they first go to P1 they will not know as much Irish as the other children. But we know that after they have been at school for a little while they will be able to catch up and learn Irish. The teachers can make sure that this is not too difficult for the children to catch up, and that the children are not confused or unhappy.

Some people think that only children that spoke Irish in playgroup should be allowed to join primary schools that speak Irish.

If children didn't go to an Irish medium playgroup when they were younger should they be able to go to an Irish speaking primary school?

Yes

No

Don't Know

### Idea 3

Some schools have nice buildings. But some schools do not, and this is true for schools that speak Irish and schools that speak English. But the reasons schools do not have nice buildings can be different. The English speaking schools are often old. The Irish speaking schools are often new, but don't have very many children yet.

If Irish speaking schools get more children they can get better buildings. One way this can happen is if a lot more children join the school, making it bigger. Another way is if one Irish speaking school closes down, and the children move to a nearby Irish speaking school, making it bigger.

We thought of other ways for schools to get more children that didn't mean one school had to close. If one school shares their principal with a school nearby then the two schools are counted as one, and they can both get better buildings. The children would not have to move to another school.

Do you think that schools that speak Irish should join up with another school in a different place and share their principal with another school, to get a better building?

Yes

No

Don't Know

### Idea 4

A primary school can do a good job teaching its girls and boys whether or not the school has lots of children. But after primary school, girls and boys need to go to a school that has lots of children at it.

Children are usually able to go to a primary school that speaks Irish if they want to. But when they leave primary school there are not many schools that speak Irish. This is because there are not enough children now looking for Irish speaking post primary schools. But there will be enough children soon.

Should new Irish speaking post-primary schools only be started in places where there will be lots of children that speak Irish?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## Idea 5

Sometimes children that want to go a post-primary school where the teachers speak Irish, but they can't get to one. These children have to go to a school where most lessons are in English, even though they want to be taught in Irish. One way to help could be for the children to go to a school where some teachers speak Irish. The children can then get some lessons in Irish and some in English. Years from now on all the teachers at the school might be able to speak Irish.

If there is no Irish language school should children be allowed to go to schools where they will have some lessons in Irish and some in English?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## Idea 6

People agree there are not enough things like books, posters and computer programmes in Irish. This is because there are too few people that are good at speaking Irish to write all the books and other things that we would like. This gave us our next idea, that we should choose the most important things to write in Irish first. Later we will write other things in Irish too. Please tell us what books or other things you think we should write in Irish first, and any other ideas you have. You can draw or make a list.

## Idea 7

When children are not at school they like to play with their friends. A lot of children that speak Irish at school would like to speak Irish when they play with their friends after school. But there are not many youth clubs or other places for them to go where they can play and speak Irish.

Should there be places, like youth clubs, where children can play with their friends after school and speak Irish?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## Idea 8

Children that speak Irish at school often have mums and dads that can only speak English. This gave us our next idea.

Would it be helpful if your Mum and Dad were helped to learn Irish?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## Idea 9

Lots of people live here. Some go to Irish language schools and some don't. Other people haven't thought about it. This gave us our next idea.

Should we do more to tell people about Irish language schools so they can decide if they want to learn in Irish or not?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## Your Ideas

Please tell us any other ideas you have.

Irish Medium and Integrated Education Branch,  
Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, BANGOR BT19 7PR  
☎ 028 9127 9286      Email: [IMIE@deni.gov.uk](mailto:IMIE@deni.gov.uk)

The closing date for responses to be with the Department is  
**FRIDAY, 30 JANUARY 2009**. Responses must be forwarded to the  
postal or email address above.