



## **Star of the Sea Primary School Policy on Exemption from Irish**

### **Introduction:**

This policy was drafted by staff and Board of Management (BoM) in response to recent changes in special educational provisions.

### **Rationale:**

Many foreign national children are seeking enrolment into Star of the Sea Primary School. Circular 12/96 requires that many of these 'New Irish' may be entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish as would children with specific learning difficulties, general learning disabilities and/or sensory impairments.

### **Relationship to the school Ethos:**

This policy is in keeping with the mission statement of the school, which strives to enhance the self esteem of all through providing for the intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of all.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To allow for pupils of differing abilities, interests and circumstances
- To enhance inclusivity within the school
- To enable children of all abilities to access the curriculum in a learner friendly manner

### **Policy Content:**

Before granting an exemption from Irish, and in line with Circular 12/96, the school requires evidence of a specific or general learning disability from a qualified psychologist and additionally in the case of a child with a sensory impairment, from a qualified medical practitioner. Children of foreign nationals who are resident in the country, in line with Circular 12/96, will also be granted an exemption from Irish, particularly if their grasp of the English language is limited. Parents will be advised of their rights regarding same.

### **Procedures:**

- The school requires a written application for exemption from the parents/guardians of the particular child. It must be accompanied by documentary evidence such as age, previous schooling etc., a psychologist's report (if relevant), a report from Class and SEN teachers and samples of the child's work.
- The principal, in consultation with staff, class teachers and BoM will grant an exemption if warranted and will present a copy of the certificate of exemption to the parents in accordance with Circular 12/96.
- The original certificate and additional documentation will be placed on file in the Principal's office.
- Note: The school no longer needs to send a copy of the exemption form to the DES. The school grants the exemption and keeps the form on file.
- As suggested in Circular 12/96, the school will encourage pupils to engage, at the very least, in the oral aspect of the Irish curriculum.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

In-school Management, class teachers, BoM will contribute to the implementation of school procedures.

**Success Criteria:**

- Seamless integration of non-nationals and pupils with learning difficulties
- Happy school learning environment
- Positive teacher/parental feedback

**Review:**

This policy was ratified by the BoM on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

This policy will be reviewed should any changes in procedure be initiated by the DES