

Aoine, 25 Samhain 2011: le foilsú láithreach

Caighdeán an Bhéarla agus an Mhata sna scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge os cionn an mheáin náisiúnta

D'fháiltigh GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. roimh fhógairt an Fhorais Taighde inniu gur léirigh torthaí na dtástálacha náisiúnta ar chaighdeán an Bhéarla agus an mhata sna bunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge go bhfuil siad i bhfad os cionn an mheáin náisiúnta. Ag labhairt ag Comhdháil Bhliantiúil agus Oideachais 2011 a d'oscail inniu ar an Tulach Mhór, dheimhnigh príomhthaighdeoir an Fhorais Taighde, an Dr. Shiel gurb é seo an chéad uair riamh a rinneadh tástálacha ar fhurmhór na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta mar aonad samplach iontu féin ar ghnóthachtáil sa Bhéarla agus sa mhata. Daingníonn na dea-thorthaí seo torthaí ó thaighde dhúchasach neamhspleách eile atá déanta in Éirinn agus tagann siad le dea-thorthaí an tumoideachais ar bhonn idirnáisiúnta.

Tagann na dea-thorthaí seo sna sála ar thaighde an NCE-MSTL (an Lárionad Sármhaitheasa i bhFoghlaim agus Teagasc an Mhata agus an Eolaíocht) a léiríonn go bhfuil buntáistí trí chur chuige an dátheangachais i gceist don pháiste i bhfoghlaim an mhata in Éirinn. Príomhfhócas na Comhdhála 2011 ná an Straitéis Litearthachta agus Uimhearthachta i gcomhthéacs na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge, le ceardlanna, plé agus díospóireacht thar an dá lá ar na straitéisí is éifeachtaí le barrfheabhas a bhaint amach ar chaighdeán reatha na scoileanna agus an tionchar nach beag a imríonn sé ar an iar-bhunleibhéal agus ar an nGaeilge sa tríú leibhéal.

D'oscail an tAire Stáit Oiliúna agus Scileanna, Ciarán Cannon an Chomhdháil dar téama ***Ag Saibhriú Saol Páistí*** go hoifigiúil. Ag labhairt ar maidin, thréaslaigh an tAire pobal na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge, Gaeltachta agus a bpáirtithe leasmhara as na dea-thorthaí atá foilsithe agus á léiriú trí an chóras tumoideachais. Thug sé aitheantas do thábhacht na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus d'obair na múinteoirí, a chinntíonn go mbíonn ard inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge ag foghlaimeoirí. D'aithin an tAire éileamh suntasach an phobail ar oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge ag gach leibhéal agus thréaslaigh sé GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. as a bheith ceannródaíoch san obair seo ag spreagadh tuismitheoirí, ag poiblíú buntáistí an dátheangachais agus ag tacú le soláthar ar ardchaighdeán.

D'fháiltigh Uachtarán na heagraíochta, Mícheál Ó Broin roimh an aitheantais seo, “fáiltimid go mór roimh na ráitis ar thábhacht na hearnála oideachais lán-Ghaeilge, agus ar ról GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. san obair luachmhar seo agus táimid an-bhuíoch den Aire as a bheith i láthair don ócáid seo. Aithnímid, áfach, go bhfuil impleachtaí an-mhór ann don earnáil leis an ngéarchéim eacnamaíochta. Táimid ag troid i gcoinne constaicí leanúnacha. Aithnímid ar fad go bhfuil srian ar an Roinn ó thaobh caiteachais ach impím ar an Roinn agus ar an Aire inniu gan an

ghéarchéim a úsáid mar cheap milleáin chun sleamhnú as a ndualgais agus gealltanais i leith forbairt na gaelscolaíochta. Níl uainn ach cothrom na féinne dár bpáistí agus dár scoileanna.”

Threaslaigh Ó Broin leis an slua de 300 duine ó phobal uile na scoileanna ag an mbunleibhéal agus an iar-bhunleibhéal lasmuigh agus laistigh den Ghaeltacht as na dea-thorthaí a léirigh an Dr. Shiel. Thug sé aitheantas don bhrú breise atá ar scoileanna, go háirithe le bliain anuas leis an laghdú sa cóimheas agus an méadú sna ranganna dá bharr. “In ainneoin na gcúinsí fíordhúshlánacha seo tá cruthúnas againn ar sár-obair, díograis agus cumas na scoileanna agus sár-éifeacht an chórais tumoideachais mar chóras oideachais.”

Ag labhairt faoi mhana na Comhdhála **Ag Saibhriú Saol Paistí** deir sé “roghnaíomar an mana seo mar go ndeimhníonn na torthaí nua seo agus na torthaí leanúnacha ó na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta go bhfuil saol na bpáistí á saibhriú tríd agus de thoradh an chórais tumoideachais. Táimid an-bhródúil as go meallann agus go bhfreastalaíonn na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ar pháistí ó gach cúlra sóisialta, eacnamaíochta agus acadúil. ”

Chuir Ó Broin fáilte ar leith roimh Phríomhfheidhmeannach an Choimisiún um Chearta an Duine a labhair ag fáiltiú na Comhdhála faoi pholasaithe iontrála scoile, éagsúlacht agus iolrachas sa chóras oideachais, agus rochtain ag tuismitheoirí ar an ngaelscolaíocht ag an dá leibhéal i gcomhthéacs cearta an duine.

Ghabh Ó Broin buíochas mór le rannpháirtithe na Comhdhála ó gach cearn den oileán agus chuir sé fáilte ar leith roimh rannpháirtithe an tuaiscirt agus na Gaeltachta. Deir sé “níl aon cheist ach go mbaineann rath na Comhdhála 2011 leis an tiomantas don fhoghlaim leanúnach atá sna scoileanna d’fhonn a chinntiú go leanfar ag cur ardchaighdeán oideachais ar fáil do na páistí.”

Is í GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. eagraíocht chomhordaitheach na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge. Cabhraíonn sí le tuismitheoirí agus le grúpaí áitiúla scoileanna nua a bhunú agus tacaíonn sí leis na scoileanna atá bunaithe cheana féin.



Friday, November 25 2011: for immediate release

The Standard of English and Mathematics in Irish-medium Schools above the national average

GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. welcomes today's announcement by the Education Research Institute that the standard of English and mathematics in Irish-medium schools is well above the national average. Speaking at the Annual Education Conference 2011, which opened today in Tullamore, Dr. Gerry Shiel, chief researcher with the ERC confirmed that this was the first time that the majority of Irish-medium and Gaeltacht primary schools were assessed on their achievement levels in English and mathematics as an independent cohort. These positive results reinforce results of other independent native research and support the much documented international research findings on the benefits of immersion education.

Today's results compound recent research findings of the NCE-MSTL (The Centre of Excellence in the Learning and Teaching of Mathematics and Science) which verify the benefits of a bilingual approach to learning mathematics in Ireland for the child. The National Strategy on Literacy and Numeracy for learning and for life 2011-2020 in the context of Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools is the focal point of this year's Conference. This will be discussed and debated in a series of workshops throughout the two days, focussing on effective strategies for achieving excellence at primary, post-primary and third level education.

Ciarán Cannon, Minister of State for Training and Skills officially opened today's Conference, entitled ***Enriching Children's Lives***. In his keynote address to the Conference, the Minister commended the Irish-medium and Gaeltacht school communities and their stakeholders for the encouraging results published, as well as their consistent high standards and excellence. He acknowledged the huge importance of Irish-medium schools, coupled with their teachers and staff, who ensure successful learning outcomes for pupils. The Minister also acknowledged the considerable demand from the community for Irish-medium education at every level. He furthermore congratulated GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. for its pioneering work in enthusing parents, in espousing the benefits of Irish-medium education and in supporting high quality provision.

Mícheál Ó Broin, president of GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. welcomed the Minister's statement, "we are delighted with the acknowledgment of the importance of the Irish-medium sector, and of GAELSCOILEANNA TEO's role in this vital work, and we are very grateful to the Minister for joining us for today's discussions. We recognise, however, that the current economic crisis has serious implications for us. We are constantly struggling to overcome obstacles. We recognise that the Department's budget is constrained, but we implore that the Department does not use this crisis as a scapegoat for shirking their duties and commitments with regard to the

development of Irish-medium education. All we ask is that our children and our schools are treated fairly”.

Ó Broin praised the 300 strong gathering from diverse sections of the Irish-medium community at both primary and post-primary level, within and outside of Gaeltacht areas, for the heartening results presented by Dr. Shiel. He acknowledged additional pressures on schools, particularly over the past year, with the increase in pupil-teacher ratios and the consequent increase in class sizes, “despite the extreme challenges which they faced over the past year, the schools have proved the effectiveness of Irish-medium education as an education system through their consistent diligence and high standards”.

In explaining the rationale for the Conference theme ***Enriching Children’s Lives***, Ó Broin states “today’s research findings and the consistent results from Irish-medium schools confirm that children’s lives are being enriched through, and as a consequence of, Irish-medium education and we’re proud that our schools represent children from all social, economic and academic backgrounds”.

Ó Broin extended a warm welcome to the Chief Executive of the Commission on Human Rights, who spoke at the Conference reception on the theme of school entrance policies, diversity and pluralism in the education system and the availability of Irish-medium education to parents as a human right.”

Ó Broin heartily thanked all participants of the Conference from all corners of Ireland and made special mention of delegates from the north and from Gaeltacht areas. He commented, “the success of 2011’s Conference is unquestionably due to the schools’ commitment to continual learning in achieving high standards for all children.”

GAELSCOILEANNA TEO. is the national coordinating organisation for Irish-medium schools at primary and post-primary level. It provides assistance and support to parents and local communities who wish to found a school and it supports existing Irish-medium schools in their development.

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