

Bunaíodh Gaelscoileanna Teo. i 1973 mar eagraíocht dheonach náisiúnta chun tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhorbairt na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ag an mbunleibhéal agus ag an iar-bhunleibhéal. Ó Iúil 2014, tá Gaelscoileanna Teo. freagrach mar cheanneagraíocht as an réimse Tumoideachas/Gaeloideachas agus Réamhscolaíocht lán-Ghaeilge. Cuimsíonn an ról nua seirbhís tacaíochta do scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge Gaeltachta freisin. Áirítear i measc ról agus feidhmeanna na heagraíochta comhairle, cúnamh agus tacaíocht do dhaoine ar mian leo oideachas lán-Ghaeilge dá bpáistí, mar aon le seirbhís tacaíochta agus ionadaíochta thar ceann náionraí agus scoileanna ar a gcuid riachtanais.

Gaelscoileanna Teo. was founded in 1973 as a national, voluntary organisation supporting the development of Irish-medium schools at primary and at post-primary level. As of July 2014, Gaelscoileanna Teo. is the lead organisation in the Irish-medium Immersion Education and Preschool sector. The organisation's new role also includes the provision of support services for Irish-medium schools in Gaeltacht areas. Gaelscoileanna Teo. provides advice, assistance and support to people who wish to have their children educated through the medium of Irish, as well as support services and advocacy for those working in the sector.

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Buneolas ar an Tumoideachas

A Guide to Immersion Education



An Luath-thumoideachas sna Scoileanna Lán-Ghaeilge

Céard é?

Tá páistí á dtumadh go hiomlán sa Gaeilge. Is í an Ghaeilge teanga foghlama an churaclaim ina iomláine. Tá cead ag bunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus teagasc an Bhéarla a chur siar go dtí an Nollaig sna Naíonáin shinsearacha, más é toil an Bord Bainistíochta an luath-thumoideachais sin a chur i bhfeidhm sa scoil. De ghnáth is i nGaeilge a chuirfidh páistí tús leis an léitheoireacht. I ndiaidh tréimhse áirithe ama cuirfidh an scoil tús le léitheoireacht an Bhéarla in éineacht le léitheoireacht sa Ghaeilge. Léiríonn an taighde náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta go soiléir go bhfuil ciall le tosú ar an luathlitearthacht sa sprioctheanga (Gaeilge) seachas i mBéarla.

Early-immersion Education in Irish-medium Schools

What is early-immersion education?

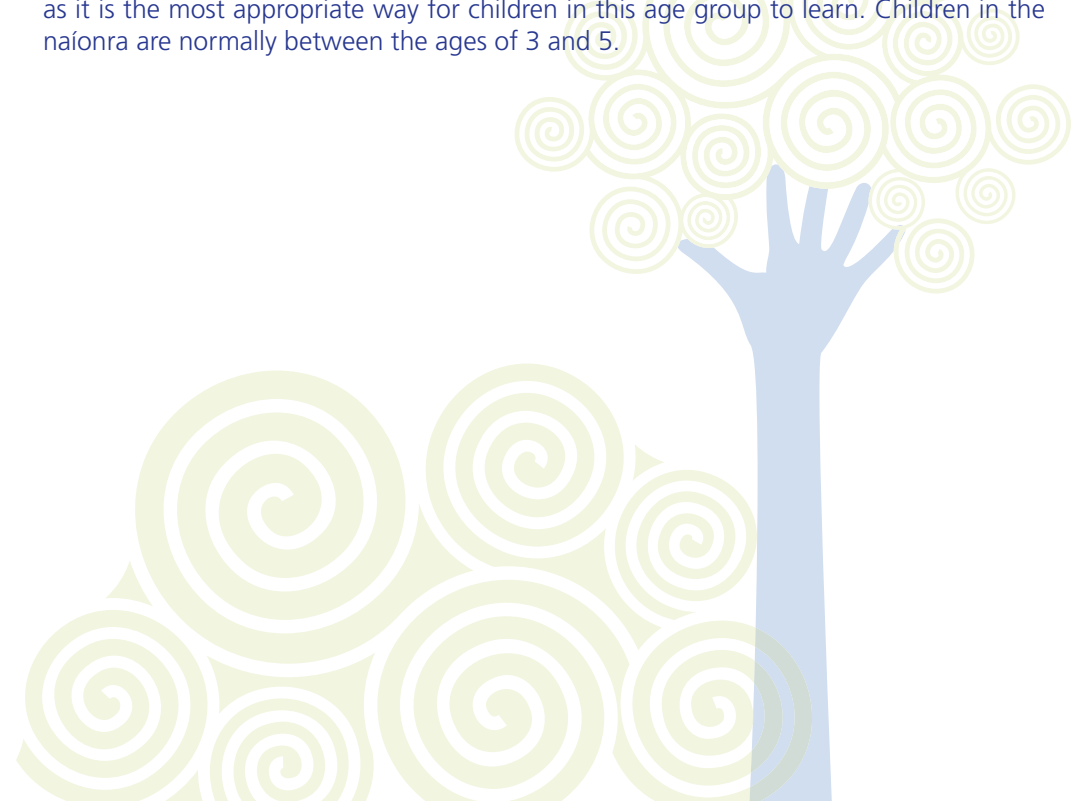
Children are immersed fully in the Irish language. Irish is the language of learning for the entire curriculum. Irish-medium schools are permitted to delay the teaching of English until Christmas in senior infant classes, subject to approval by the Board of Management. Reading will typically begin in Irish. After a certain period, the school will introduce reading in English in addition to Irish-language reading. All native and international research findings confirm the advantages of **introducing early-literacy in the target language (Irish)** rather than in English.

Naíonra

Sainmhínítear 'naíonra' mar ghrúpa páistí a thagann le chéile go rialta ar a mhéid 3.5 uair a chloig sa lá (seirbhís seisiúnach atá i gceist) i dtimpeallacht taitneamhach faoi stiúir stiúrthóra. Cuireann an stiúrthóir naíonra gach deis ar fáil do pháistí forbairt iomlán, idir fhorbairt fhisiciúil, intleachtúil, chruthaitheach, aeistéitiúil, shóisialta, mhothúchánach agus teanga a bhaint amach. Trí Ghaeilge a dhéantar obair an naíonra. Modh an tsúgartha an cur chuige a úsáidtear de ghnáth mar gurb é is oiriúnaí mar mhodh foghlama do pháistí ag an tréimhse seo. Is idir 3 agus 5 bliain d'aois de ghnáth a bhíonn páistí sa naíonra.

Naíonra

A 'naíonra' (Irish-medium preschool) is defined as a group of children coming together for up to 3.5 hours per day (the naíonra is a sessional service) in an enjoyable setting under the supervision of a stiúrthóir (director). The director provides every opportunity to help the child's development; physical, intellectual, creative, aesthetic, social, emotional and linguistic. The work of the naíonra is done through Irish. The play method is usually used as it is the most appropriate way for children in this age group to learn. Children in the naíonra are normally between the ages of 3 and 5.



Scoil lán-Ghaeilge

Go minic, tugtar 'gaelscoil' ar bhunscoil lán-Ghaeilge agus 'gaelcholáiste' ar iarbhunscoil lán-Ghaeilge.

Is í an Ghaeilge an teanga teagaisc sa scoil, agus an teanga chumarsáide idir na múinteoirí, na daltaí agus an bhainistíocht. Is teanga bheo í an Ghaeilge sa scoil, laistigh agus lasmuigh de na ranganna. Bíonn ardchaighdeán oideachasúil i ngach ábhar á ghnóthú, an Béarla san áireamh, agus leantar an gnáthchuraclam atá leagtha síos ag an Roinn Oideachais & Scileanna. Cuirtear fáilte roimh gach dalta as gach cúlra teanga, socheacnamaíochta agus cumais.

Is faoi phátrúnachtaí éagsúla atá na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge. D'fhéadfadh na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge sainmheoin creidimh éagsúla a bheith acu, ag brath ar phátrún na scoile. Tá scoileanna sainchreidmheacha, idirchreidmheacha, ilchreidmheacha agus scoileanna neamh-shainchreidmheacha ann. Tá sonraí maidir le suíomh, pátrúnacht agus sainmheon na scoileanna ar fáil ar www.gaelscoileanna.ie.

What is an Irish-medium school?

Irish-medium schools are often referred to as a 'gaelscoil' at primary level and as a 'gaelcholáiste' at post-primary level.

Irish is the language of instruction in an Irish-medium school and the language of communication between the staff, pupils and school management. Irish is a living language in the schools, both in the classroom and outside. Irish-medium schools provide a high standard of education in all subjects, including English, and follow the standard curriculum set by the Department of Education & Skills. All pupils are welcome in Irish-medium schools, regardless of their ability, socioeconomic and linguistic background.

Irish-medium schools are run under various patronages. Schools can have various religious ethos, depending on the school's patron. At present, there are denominational, interdenominational, multidenominational and nondenominational Irish-medium schools. Details on the location, religious ethos and patron for each school can be found on www.gaelscoileanna.ie.

Cén tionchar a bheidh ag an bhfoghlaím iomlán trí Ghaeilge ar fhorbairt Bhéarla mo pháiste?

Is féidir go mbíonn imní ar roinnt tuismitheoirí ag an tús go mbeidh drochthionchar ag an gcóras tumoideachais ar fhorbairt Bhéarla a bpáiste. Léiríonn torthaí taighde an Fhorais Taighde ar Oideachais, 2011, go bhfuil páistí/daltaí i bhfad thar an meán náisiúnta i léitheoireacht an Bhéarla sna bunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus go bhfuil ag éirí leo thar an meán náisiúnta sa mhata freisin. Tá tuilleadh eolais agus torthaí taighde ar fáil ar www.gaelscoileanna.ie.

An bhfuil tumoideachas lán-Ghaeilge oiriúnach do pháistí/dhaltaí le riachtanais speisialta?

Déanann na naíonraí agus scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge freastal ar pháistí/daltaí le riachtanais speisialta díreach mar a dhéanann naíonraí agus scoileanna a fheidhmíonn trí Bhéarla. De réir gach fianaise, éiríonn ar a laghad chomh maith céanna le páistí/daltaí le riachtanais speisialta sa chóras lán-Ghaeilge is a n-éiríonn leo sna córais meán-Bhéarla. Aithnítear an córas luath-thumoideachais iomlán mar an múnla is rathúla do pháistí/daltaí le riachtanais speisialta.

How will learning everything through Irish affect my child's development in English?

Parents sometimes worry that Irish-medium education will have a negative impact on their child's development in English. The results of research done by the Educational Research Institute in Ireland and published in November 2011 show that the standard of English in Irish-medium primary schools is well above the national average, as is the standard in maths. Further information and research findings are available on www.gaelscoileanna.ie

Is Irish-medium education suitable for children/pupils with special needs?

Naíonraí and Irish-medium schools cater for children/pupils with special needs just as preschools and schools teaching through the medium of English do. All evidence shows that children/pupils with special needs do just as well in an Irish-medium setting as they do in the English-medium system. Total early immersion is recognised as the most successful model for children/pupils with special needs.

Cén fáth a roghnóinn tumoideachas lán-Ghaeilge do mo pháiste?

- Buntáistí cognaíochtúla agus gnóthachtáil mhéadaithe curaclaim: Bíonn cumas intinne níos fearr ag an bpáiste/dalta agus mar sin torthaí níos fearr
- Níos éasca teangacha eile a fhoghlaim: Forbróidh daltaí an dá theanga agus ní bheidh aon drochthionchar d'fhorbairt ceachtar teanga ná d'aon ábhar eile sa churaclam, msh. Fraincis, Spáinnis, Stair, Ealaín, nó eile
- Bíonn páistí/daltaí líofa agus liteartha i dhá theanga: Deir na saineolaithe idirnáisiúnta gur fearr na scileanna litearthachta a aistriú ó mhionteanga go mórtheanga seachas a mhalairt
- Scileanna cumarsáide níos fearr, cruthaitheacht agus íogaireacht chumarsáide
- Rachaidh páistí/daltaí i dtaithí agus i bhféinmhuinín ar a gcultúr féin, rud a chabhraíonn le muinín agus diongbháilteacht féiniúlachta
- Buntáistí eacnamaíochta agus fostaíochta: Is scil ar leith obair a dhéanamh i dteangacha éagsúla
- Beidh tuiscint agus ómós ag páistí/daltaí ar chultúr éagsúla: Spreagann an córas ilchultúrachas níos doimhne agus caoinfhulaingt cultúir eile níos fearr, níos lú ciníochas.
- D'fhéadfaí bónasmharcanna a thabhairt d'iarrthóirí a fhreagraíonn scrúdú scríofa Ardteiste trí Ghaeilge

Tá tuilleadh eolais maidir leis na buntáistí agus an bunús taighde leo ar fáil ar www.gaelscoileanna.ie.

Why would I choose Irish-medium immersion education for my child?

- Cognitive advantages and greater academic success: The child/pupil will have greater mental ability and will achieve better results
- Easier to learn additional languages: The child/pupil will develop both languages and neither will be negatively affected, nor will their progress in any other subject, e.g. French, Spanish, History, Art, etc.
- The ability to speak two languages fluently and to read and write in two languages: International experts point to the fact that literacy skills transfer with greater ease from a minority language to a majority language
- Better communication skills, more creativity and sensitivity to communication
- Children/pupils gain a deeper appreciation of their culture, which leads to increased self-esteem and sense of identity
- Economic and employment benefits: Ability to work in more than one language is a valued skill.
- Broader exposure to and appreciation of the value of various cultures: Deeper multi-culturalism, greater tolerance and less racism
- A candidate who answers in Irish in the written examination in certain Leaving Certificate subjects may be given bonus marks

Further information on these benefits and the research on which they are based is available on www.gaelscoileanna.ie.

An dtuigfidh mo pháistí an stiúrthóir/múinteoir?

Sna luathbhlianta tuigeann stiúrthóirí naíonra agus múinteoirí bunscoile sa chóras tumoideachais nach dtuigfidh gach páiste/dalta gach rud a deireann siad. Úsáideann siad comharthaíocht choirp, fhíseach, gotha gnúise áibhéalta, agus tuin chainte eispriseach chun brí a chur in iúl agus cumarsáid a dhéanamh. Ag leibhéal na réamhscolaíochta agus i rith luathbhlianta na bunscoile, tá sé nádúrtha do pháistí/daltaí meascán de Ghaeilge agus de Bhéarla a labhairt lena gcuid piaraí agus nuair a bhíonn siad ag freagairt an stiúrthóra/múinteora. Tá sé seo amhlaidh ach go háirithe dóibh siúd nach bhfuil ag teacht as cúlra baile Gaeilge. De réir mar a leanann siad ar aghaidh, tosaíonn na páistí/daltaí ag úsáid níos mó Gaeilge go nádúrtha. Úsáideann stiúrthóirí agus múinteoirí amhráin, frásaí úsáideacha, cantaireacht agus rímeanna agus bíonn meascán cúramach ann i rith an lae de ghnáthaimh chomóna, chun páistí sa naíonraí agus daltaí scoile a mhealladh i leith úsáid na Gaeilge.

Will my child understand the stiúrthóir/múinteoir?

In the early years, naíonra directors and schoolteachers realise that the children/pupils will not understand everything they say. They use body language, visuals, exaggerated facial expressions, and expressive intonation to communicate their meaning. At preschool level and during the early years of primary school, it is common for children / pupils to speak a mixture of English and Irish with each other and when responding to their director/teacher. This applies especially to those who don't speak Irish at home. As they progress, the children/pupils naturally begin to use more Irish. To encourage them, teachers often use songs, useful phrases, chants, and rhymes and carefully structure the day with familiar routines.

An gá dom Gaeilge a bheith agam le mo pháiste a chlárú le naíonra nó scoil lán-Ghaeilge?

Ní gá. Cinnte, is buntáiste é don pháiste/dalta má tá Gaeilge á labhairt sa bhaile, fiú mura bhfuil i gceist ach í a labhairt ag am ar leith nó go bhfuil focail áirithe in úsáid, ach gur léir don pháiste/dalta nach teanga naíonra nó scoile amháin í an Ghaeilge agus go bhfuil an-spéis ag na tuismitheoirí sa teanga. Fáiltítear go mór roimh pháistí/daltaí ó gach cúlra teanga agus cultúir sna naíonraí agus scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge.

An mbeidh mé in ann cabhair a thabhairt do mo pháiste leis an obair bhaile?

Aithníonn scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge an tábhacht le rannpháirtíocht na dtuismitheoirí i ngach gné d'oidreachas a bpáistí, obair bhaile san áireamh. Aithníonn múinteoirí nach bhfuil Gaeilge líofa ag gach tuismitheoir agus tugtar obair bhaile d'fhonn treisiú a dhéanamh ar a bhfuil foghlamtha ag an dalta le linn am scoile. Fiosraigh leis an scoil a bhfuil suim agat inti maidir le tacaíochtaí d'obair bhaile do thuismitheoirí gur mian leo Gaeilge a fhoghlaim.

Do I need to have Irish in order to register my child in a naíonra or Irish-medium school?

No. It is, however, an advantage to the child/pupil if Irish is spoken at home, even if it's just used at a certain time of day or certain phrases are used, so that the child/pupil understands that Irish is not spoken in school alone and that the parents have an interest in the language. Children/pupils from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds are welcome in naíonraí and Irish-medium schools.

How will I help my child with homework?

Irish-medium schools recognise the importance of engaging parents in all aspects of their child's learning, including homework. Teachers are aware that many parents may not speak Irish and homework is designed to reinforce what the pupil has already covered during school hours. Contact the school you're interested in to enquire about the supports available for homework and for parents who might wish to learn Irish themselves.



An bhfuil an cineál oideachais seo ar fáil in aon áit eile?

Meastar go bhfuil idir 60-75% de dhaonra an domhain dátheangach agus is cur chuige oideachais comónta é a mbaintear leas as ar fud an domhain i dtíortha amhail an Bhreatain Bhig, Ceanada, an Astráil, an Nua-Shéalainn, an Chatalóin, Tír na mBascach, an Fhionlainn, an Ungáir, an Afraic Theas agus Albain.

Is this kind of education available anywhere else?

It is estimated that between 60-75% of the population of the world are bilingual and immersion education is a common educational approach used throughout the world in countries such as Wales, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Finland, Hungary, South Africa and Scotland.

