



19th May 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Beatha agus sláinte!

Please see the following policy regarding higher and ordinary level classes for Irish in third year (students sitting the Junior Cycle exam in 2026).

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher before the end of term.

Le meas agus le buíochas,
Roinn na Gaeilge

POLICY - Levels in Irish for Third Year Students 2025-26

Rationale:

Junior Cycle Irish has a common level Specification. All first and second year students follow this common level course. However, there are two different examination papers at the end of the course in third year, higher level and ordinary level. Therefore, classes need to be divided from the beginning of third year to facilitate both of these levels as requirements are not the same for both examination papers. The following is an outline of how Roinn na Gaeilge, Scoil Dara will divide all current second year students into classes of the appropriate levels from the beginning of third year.

Assessments:

- **Summer Exam:** a common summer exam will take place at the end of May in second year.
- The exam comprises of material covered in terms two and three of second year.
- The exam layout will be based on the style of questioning used in the Department of Education past/sample papers.
- All Irish classes will sit the same exam on the same day in their class groups.
- The exam is corrected by the class teachers using an agreed common marking scheme which is based on Department of Education guidelines.
- The results of this exam will be made available on the students' end of term school report.
- Achieving 40% or above in the summer assessment will give the student the option of being placed in a higher-level class next year.
- **Previous Assessments:** previous end-of-term assessments completed by students in both first and second year **will also be taken into consideration** in helping students to decide the most appropriate level for them in this subject.

Classes:

- Classes will be restructured and in place at the beginning of third year based on the considerations taken by Roinn na Gaeilge teachers of the aforementioned assessments
- A student's general application throughout first and second year may also be taken into account.

Textbooks:

- Where a student continues this subject at ordinary level, no new textbook is required.
- Where necessary, the ordinary level e-book can be accessed by the teacher in class. The current textbook being used is provided as per the FreeBook Scheme.

Please note:

- This information is shared with all current second year students by their class teachers.
- This information is also published on the school's website at this time. A text is sent from the school to the parents and guardians where the information is available to access on the website.