



Guidance for Irish medium schools

For Irish-medium schools that are welcoming and enrolling students from Ukraine, it is recognised that the students are unlikely to have any experience of, or familiarity with, the Irish language. In many cases, the students will speak only Ukrainian and/or Russian and may have some understanding of English.

Many of the challenges that arise in welcoming and including such students will be similar for English-medium and Irish-medium schools.

Decisions about the participation of students in an Irish-medium or English-medium learning environment are primarily for the parents and the students involved to make, while also taking account of local circumstances. Material has been produced in Ukrainian and Russian for Ukrainian parents and students explaining the status of Irish in Ireland and the existence of Irish-medium schools in non-Gaeltacht communities. This will help to ensure that they are familiar with this aspect of our education system prior to enrolment in any school.

In responding to the needs of these students, schools should be guided by what is best for the students and most appropriate for their needs. Many Gaelscoileanna will have extensive experience in enrolling children for whom the language of instruction is a new language for them. Teachers in Irish-medium schools will therefore have developed a particular skillset in relation to teaching students in a second, or third, language.

Schools where Ukrainian students are enrolled are entitled to additional language support hours to support the development of language skills. These hours should be used by the school to meet the individual needs of the Ukrainian students. Additional hours are allocated as follows:

Ukrainian students requiring language support	No. of language support hours per week
1 - 4	5
5 - 8	10
9 - 13	15
14 - 20	20
21 - 30	25
31 - 40	35
>40	50

Schools can apply for these language support hours on form [U-TACAÍOCHT TEANGA 2022](#).