



Circular 0044/2007

To Boards of Management and Principal Teachers of National Schools

Language and Literacy in Infant Classes in Irish-medium schools

In accordance with the Rules for National Schools the Minister for Education and Science launched a revised Primary School Curriculum in September 1999 as the curriculum to be provided in recognised primary schools. The revised curriculum has been implemented on a phased basis, culminating with Drama in 2006/07.

The Minister has decided that in the case of recognised Irish-medium schools the commencement of **providing a minimum of 2.5 hours per week for English as Language 2, as set out in the Primary School Curriculum, cannot be delayed beyond the start of the second term in Junior Infants.** Where the implementation of the minimum time for English is not put into effect from the outset, the precise policy to be adopted in individual schools **within the above framework** should be determined in consultation with the individual school's stakeholders which must include all parents. A statement of that policy should be available to the school community.

School authorities should ensure that these arrangements are put into effect no later than the beginning of January 2008, and are implemented from 2007/08 onwards. Exceptionally in the case of schools where a different practice has been in place over a long period (e.g. for more than 5 years) and where there are particular difficulties in making the transition, the schools will be allowed until the commencement of the 2008/09 school year to put the new arrangements into effect.

Any queries in connection with this circular should be directed to Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit, Department of Education and Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (Phone 01-8892038/8892384)

The Circular is also available on the Department of Education & Science website at www.education.ie

Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Margaret Kelly
Principal Officer
July 2007