



POLICY:	Bilingual Policy
FIRST DRAFT:	
ADOPTED:	An BR2008#4
AMENDMENTS:	None to Date
REVIEW:	

<p style="text-align: center;">Mary Immaculate College Bilingual Policy</p>

Universities Act (1997) Section 18 Paragraph 6(a)

“In performing its functions a governing authority, shall -

have regard to the promotion and use of the Irish language as a language of general communication and promote the cultivation of the Irish language and its associated literary and cultural traditions.”

Mission Statement

The College’s Mission Statement acknowledges Mary Immaculate College’s *‘special commitment to the Irish language’*. The College has a long association with and tradition in the promotion and support of the Irish language and of Irish cultural activities among staff and students.

In presenting its bilingual policy, Mary Immaculate College supports the development, promotion and advancement of the use of the Irish language in the College. An *Oifigeach na Gaeilge* will be employed to support and promote Irish language-based and bilingual activities.

Bilingual Policy

It should be noted that all provisions set out in this policy are subject to the availability of resources. All policies, guidelines and protocols of Mary Immaculate College, will reflect the Colleges commitment to the promotion of equality and will be fully compliant with the provisions of prevailing equality legislation.

1. Language Courses

- 1.1 That general Irish language courses at a variety of levels from beginner to advanced be provided by/in the College for all staff and students who wish to avail of them.
- 1.2 That intensive Irish language courses be specifically designed to support staff in their work in the College.
- 1.3 That provision be made for attendance at Irish language courses for staff in *Gaeltacht areas*.
- 1.4 That Irish language training be included in induction programmes for new staff.
- 1.5 That information be provided regarding Irish language courses in the *Gaeltacht* or in the Limerick area, Irish language and cultural organisations, etc.

2. Academic Issues

- 2.1 That appointment to permanent academic posts in the Education Department will require '*ardchaighdeán sa Ghaeilge*'.
- 2.2 That advertisements for permanent academic posts in the Arts Departments will normally specify that '*Gaeilge is desirable*'.
- 2.3 That the possibility of extending the range of existing academic programmes delivered through the medium of the Irish language or bilingually be examined.
- 2.4 That the possibility of offering modules (or parts thereof) of current programmes, both undergraduate and postgraduate, through the medium of the Irish language or bilingually, be explored.
- 2.5 That research through the medium of the Irish language or on Irish language

learning or teaching be encouraged.

- 2.6 That guest lectures and seminars through the medium of the Irish language be promoted.
- 2.7 That a translation service be made available to staff.
- 2.8 That the possibility of extending the range of services of the Learner Support Unit to meet the needs of Irish language students be examined.
- 2.9 That the College would explore the necessary steps for inclusion on the list of Department of Education and Science Colleges programme - *An Scéim Scoláireachtaí Triú Léibhéal (Tri Ghaeilge: Teoranta)*.

3. Promotion of Bilingual Environment in Mary Immaculate College

- 3.1 That all official College stationery and publications, invitations, signage and public notices be bilingual in so far as is possible.
- 3.2 That bilingual services be encouraged in key areas such as phone-answering, the canteen, reception and the library.
- 3.3 That a specific noticeboard and webpage be developed to further promote the Irish language and cultural activities in the College.

4. Social activities

- 4.1 That a range of social activities be supported which would facilitate the use of Irish language and cultural activities in an informal way.