

# **Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme: Guidelines for ongoing implementation in post-primary schools March 2023**

Information on the continued implementation of the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme in post-primary schools was outlined in [Circular 0011/2022](#), which issued last year. That circular applies to the implementation of the Scheme in both the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years. This guidance note provides an update on the implementation of the Scheme for the 2023/24 school year.

## **The e-Hub project 2023/24**

The e-Hub project will continue to be implemented in the 2023/24 school year to extend the range of senior cycle subject options available through the medium of Irish for students in post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht.

Both Physics and Chemistry will be available again through the e-Hub project to students in Gaeltacht post-primary schools beginning their fifth year in September 2023. Information notes for schools and for students and their parents/guardians, along with application forms for 2023-2025, will be forwarded to schools in due course.

Additional resources will continue to be provided to participating schools to support the implementation of the e-Hub project in 2023/24 as detailed in Circular 0011/2022.

## **Additional Irish language support hours in response to high numbers of new entrants**

Similar to provisions made under NE-EAL, if the number of students in a school in the Scheme has increased significantly from 30 September of the previous school year due to an increase in new entrants, the school may be entitled to additional Irish language support hours based on the bands set out in [Circular 0011/2022](#). If student numbers now fall within a new band, the school may apply to [aog@education.gov.ie](mailto:aog@education.gov.ie) to request these additional hours. This is being done on an exceptional basis for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years in response to high incidences of new entrants being welcomed by schools.

Schools must ensure that new entrant students' details are registered as required on the P-POD system.

Applications for additional Irish language support hours under these circumstances should be made on the [application form](#) available to download on gov.ie and submitted to [aog@education.gov.ie](mailto:aog@education.gov.ie).

## **Validation process for recognition as a Gaeltacht school**

The process to validate the recognition of Gaeltacht schools under the terms of the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme commenced in October 2022. It is envisaged that this process will be completed during the 2023-2024 academic year. The validation process is overseen by the Gaeltacht Education Unit in conjunction with the Department's Inspectorate and with the support of An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG).

The validation process involves an inspection visit to evaluate each school's fulfilment of the language-based criteria for recognition as a Gaeltacht school. Details regarding the evaluation visit and other aspects of the validation process may be found in the guidance note [Validation Process to Gain Recognition as a Gaeltacht School](#), which was published by the Department in June 2022.