



Circular 21/00

Irish Requirement for Appointment as a Teacher in Second Level Schools

To: the Chief Executive Officer of each Vocational Education Committee

1. Arising from the decision taken by the Minister for Education and Science and announced in the Press Release issued on the 24th June, 1999 a change regarding the Irish requirement for appointment as a teacher in second level schools has come into effect from the beginning of the 1999/2000 school year.

From that date onwards, while there will no longer be an Irish requirement for appointment as a second level teacher in the case of the generality of teachers who are not required to use Irish in their ordinary daily duties, the Irish requirement will be necessary in the case of the following,

- Teachers employed in Gaeltacht Schools
 - Teachers employed in schools where Irish is the ordinary medium of instruction (in the case of subjects other than Irish)
 - Teachers who teach any subject (other than Irish) through the medium of Irish in any school.
2. Henceforth, subject to the exceptions referred to in Paragraph 3 below, teachers who must satisfy the Irish requirement for the purposes of appointment as a second level teacher, will be required to hold the Teastas Gaeilge do Mhuinteoiri Iarbhunscoile. Please see Circular 71/99 issued by the Examinations Branch in this regard.
 3. Exemption from the examination for the Teastas Gaeilge do Mhuinteoiri Iarbhunscoile will be given to any applicant who has a degree in Irish from a recognised degree awarding authority and in which Irish was a subject in the final examination OR who has passed the Oral Irish Test for registration as a secondary teacher OR who has passed the Oral Examination for the Teastas I d'Teagasc na Gaeilge OR who has passed the Oral Test for the Ceard Teastas Gaeilge.
 4. In the case of Vocational Education Committees which have, within their area of administration, Gaeltacht Schools, schools where Irish is the ordinary medium of instruction (in the case of subjects other than Irish) or schools in which teachers are required to teach any subject (other than Irish) through the medium of Irish, it will be a matter for the VEC in question, having regard to the overall needs of the Scheme and the particular needs of these schools, to determine whether the qualification in Irish is required when particular posts are being filled. Where it is considered that the Irish requirement is necessary, this should be specifically stated in the advertisement for the posts in question.

5. A teacher, who was appointed provisionally to a permanent post under the terms of Circular CL 43/97 and who is not in any of the categories listed in Paragraph I above, may have his/her appointment confirmed provided he/she has satisfactorily completed his/her probation and has met all the other requirements for appointment.
6. With effect from the beginning of the 1999/00 school year, a teacher who satisfies all other requirements for appointment as a fully qualified Eligible Part-time Teacher, may be appointed in that capacity without having the Irish requirement subject to the terms of Paragraphs I and 4 above and provided the appropriate advertisement and selection procedures were adhered to.
7. Please provide a copy of this Circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to parents and teachers.

John Dennehy
Secretary General

August 2000.