



Circular 0022/2018

**POLICY ON GAELTACHT EDUCATION 2017-2022**

**GAELTACHT SCHOOL RECOGNITION SCHEME FOR POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
IN GAELTACHT LANGUAGE-PLANNING AREAS**

**NEXT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE  
(APRIL 2018 TO END OF 2018/19 SCHOOL YEAR)**

**TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT, PRINCIPALS AND TEACHING STAFF OF POST-PRIMARY  
SCHOOLS IN GAELTACHT LANGUAGE-PLANNING AREAS, AND TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARDS**

**Purpose of Circular**

The purpose of this Circular is to bring the attention of post-primary school authorities to the next steps to be taken by the Department of Education and Skills (hereinafter referred to as the Department) and post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht with respect to the implementation of the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the *Scheme*) from April 2018 to the end of the 2018/19 school year. This Circular follows on from Circular 0034/2017 which outlined the Initial Implementation Phase covering the period from April 2017 to June 2018.

**PART A** of this Circular applies to post-primary schools that are already participating in the *Scheme* and **PART B** relates to the post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas that have not applied to date to participate in the *Scheme*. Roles and responsibilities relating to the co-ordination and implementation of the *Policy* and the *Scheme* are set out in **PART C**.

**PART A**

**Post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas that chose to apply to participate in the  
*Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme***

**1. Summary of key points**

- The Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme is moving into the next phase of implementation.
- Additional funding and teaching supports will be available in 2018/19 to the 96% of post-primary schools that are participating in the *Scheme*.
- To assist post-primary schools in using the school self-evaluation (SSE) process effectively in the implementation, monitoring and ongoing review of their action-plans as an integral part of this work, the following supports will be available:
  - advisory visits provided by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills to discuss with principals and relevant teachers the selected language-based targets and

actions (based on the domains and standards of *Looking at Our School, 2016*) as the focus of their self-evaluation process

- regional seminars and support visits provided by COGG to provide additional guidance and professional development support for post-primary schools on the implementation of their selected targets and actions through SSE
  - the publication and issuing of *Interim Draft Guide for Post-primary Gaeltacht Schools: Immersion Education: Good Practice Indicators (2018)* with the support of COGG
  - commencement of a parallel pilot Irish-language development programme (*Forás*) in two post-primary schools in the *Scheme* from September 2018. This pilot programme will involve the allocation of one additional whole-time equivalent teacher to each of two selected post-primary schools to assist junior cycle students who have an evident need to develop their Irish-language skills over a transitional period so that they can beneficially engage with the school's all-Irish curriculum, beginning with the first year students.
  - commencement of a digital e-hub initiative on a pilot basis in four selected post-primary schools participating in the *Scheme* in order to extend the range of subject options through Irish for students in Gaeltacht post-primary schools.
- A list of the primary and post-primary schools participating in the *Scheme* will be published on the Department's website in Summer 2018.

**The Appendices attached to this Circular include:**

- A. Update on post-primary schools' response to the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* (April 2017 to April 2018) and on the implementation of other *Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022* actions
- B. Expression of Interest Form: Pilot Irish-language development programme (*Forás*) to support junior cycle students who have an evident need to develop their Irish-language skills so that they can beneficially engage with the school's all-Irish curriculum and with full Irish-medium instruction
- C. Expression of Interest Form: Allows for any post-primary school in the Gaeltacht that did not opt to participate in the *Scheme* in the first implementation phase to submit an expression of interest to the Department in 2018
- D. Programme of Supports for any post-primary school in the Gaeltacht not yet in the *Scheme* and wishing to submit an Expression of Interest in 2018
- E. Membership of Gaeltacht Education Policy Advisory Committee.

**2. Programme of Supports for post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht in the next implementation phase (September 2018 - August 2019)**

In line with Circular 0034/2017, post-primary schools that are participating in the *Scheme* and whose action plans have been accepted shall be eligible to receive a grant in May 2018 and to receive

additional supports and resources during the school year 2018/19. Ongoing access to the supports and resources will be dependent on the implementation and continuous monitoring and review of targets set in action plans by schools,. Each school in the *Scheme* is required to commence implementation of the targets set out in the action plan for improvement as soon as possible but no later than the commencement of the 2018/2019 school year.

Post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas that are **already** participating in the *Scheme* and whose action plans are deemed acceptable by the Department are eligible to access the following resources and supports in 2018/2019:

- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD):** Post-primary schools participating in the *Scheme* will be provided with additional CPD, which will be co-ordinated by COGG in conjunction with relevant support services and the Inspectorate. Where necessary, and as resources permit, substitution for attendance at seminars/workshops will be provided through the Online Claims System (OLCS) or under the management of the relevant Education and Training Board (ETB) in 2018, up to a maximum of 2 days for 2 attendees in participating post-primary schools. These seminars will be supplemented by additional school visits for the remainder of the 2018/2019 school year, as required and as resources permit. A schedule of the CPD seminars for the post-primary schools participating in the *Scheme* will be provided by COGG in advance, and in collaboration with other support services.
- **Grant allocation:** In May 2018 a grant of €1,200 will be paid to each post-primary school in Gaeltacht language-planning areas participating in the *Scheme* whose action plans for improvement are developed and deemed acceptable to inform the first stages of implementation of the *Scheme*. The purpose of the grant is for the purchase of Irish-medium teaching resources to support the provision of high quality immersion education. Post- primary schools will be required to retain all receipts and records of expenditure incurred for audit purposes in accordance with public procurement procedures.

A full list of available resources through the medium of Irish can be accessed on the COGG website at [www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie)

- **Additional Hours:** Additional language support hours will be allocated to post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas participating in the *Scheme* from September 2018, over and above the additional hours already allocated through the *Scheme* in 2017/18, as follows:

<b>Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme - post-primary schools</b>			
<b>Student enrolment</b>	<b>Hours allocated through the <i>Scheme</i> in the 2017/18 school year</b>	<b>Additional language support hours allocated in 2018/19 school year</b>	<b>Total hours allocated through the <i>Scheme</i> for 2018/2019</b>
<b>&lt; 150</b>	2	5	7
<b>150-300</b>	4	5	9
<b>&gt;300</b>	5	5	10

These language support hours should be used solely to support the identified needs of first- and second-language speakers and learners of Irish to develop and enrich their Irish-language skills.

Continuous monitoring of students' progress is required to facilitate the implementation and ongoing review of the school's action plan to strengthen immersion education.

Post-primary schools participating in the *Scheme* are required to outline in their annual school self-evaluation plan how the additional language support hours are used to support the learning experiences provided for students in the curriculum through the medium of Irish.

- **Inspectorate Support:** A dedicated team of inspectors will continue to support post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht in the implementation of their action plans to strengthen the quality of education through Irish and increase the use of Irish in the school community.

### 3. School self-evaluation

School self-evaluation (SSE) provides all schools in the Gaeltacht with an internal process for developing, progressing, reviewing and updating action plans for improvement on an annual basis to strengthen Irish-medium educational provision.

Schools are reminded that self-evaluation is a way of working or an approach that involves reflective enquiry leading to action for improvement that is informed by evidence gathered within each school's unique context with a particular focus on teaching and learning. SSE provides each school with a process for the ongoing development, monitoring and review of its own action-plan to strengthen Irish-medium educational provision, the implementation of the L1 Junior Cycle Specification for Irish, and DEIS themes, where relevant.

Once the investigation and analysis of evidence stage is complete and the school's self-evaluation and action plan for improvement has been developed, schools need to monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's action plan on students' learning during the implementation phase.

The six-step SSE process and the teaching and learning section of *Looking at Our School 2016: A Quality Framework for Post-Primary Schools*, also available in the *School Self-Evaluation Guidelines 2016-2022 Post-Primary Schools*, should be used when reflecting on and evaluating current practice. Inspectors will carry out advisory and monitoring visits to support schools' self-evaluation and improvement work as part of the supports available to post-primary schools through the *Scheme*.

### 4. Pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás)

The Gaeltacht Education Unit in the Department is making provision for the implementation of a pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás) in two post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht participating in the *Scheme*, with an expected commencement date of the beginning of the 2018/19 school year. This will involve the allocation of one additional whole-time equivalent teacher with a high level of proficiency in Irish in each of the two post-primary schools selected.

The overall objective of the pilot programme, which will be delivered in two schools that provide full instruction through the medium of Irish, is to provide junior cycle students with low proficiency in Irish, beginning with first year students, with access to supplementary supports to improve their proficiency in Irish. This additional support will be provided parallel to the Irish-medium instruction implemented in the main part of the school. In the pilot Irish-language development programme, Irish will be the main language of communication and instruction used to support and reinforce students' learning. The purpose of this support is to significantly enhance the quality of these students' language

skills in Irish during the transitional period that the support will be available to them, so that they will be much better prepared to engage with the all-Irish curriculum of the school.

To be eligible to participate in the pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás), the post-primary school in the Gaeltacht language-planning area must:

- have a minimum enrolment of 150 students
- be already operating through the medium of Irish
- already be participating in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* and have their action plan accepted by the Department.

Other factors that will be considered by the Department in the selection process will be:

- Existing teaching staffing level in the post-primary school
- language profile of feeder primary schools e.g. a breakdown of student numbers expected to be enrolled in first year from Irish-medium, English-medium, and bilingual feeder primary schools
- evidence provided by the post-primary school outlining how the additional teaching post will be used to meet the objectives of the pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás).

Only those schools that meet the above selection criteria are eligible to complete an Expression of Interest Form (see Appendix B), which must be returned either electronically to [aog@education.gov.ie](mailto:aog@education.gov.ie) or by post to: An tAonad um Oideachas Gaeltachta, An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, Sráid Maoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 RC96. The closing date for receipt of Expression of Interest Forms for the pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás) is **Friday, 4 May 2018**. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by the closing date of **18 May 2018**.

## PART B

### **Post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas not yet in the *Scheme* that wish to participate in 2018**

Post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas that are not already participating in the *Scheme* are provided with a further opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest Form to the Department in 2018. **Appendix C** of this Circular includes a copy of this form. Post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas are eligible to access similar resources and supports that were provided to post-primary schools in the initial implementation phase, in accordance with the terms and conditions of Circular 0034/2017, which are updated in **Appendix D** of this Circular.

The board of management, the school community and local language-planning committee must be involved in the decision to complete the Expression of Interest Form for participation in the *Scheme*, as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of Circular 0034/2017.

Participation in the *Scheme* involves the school's engagement in action-planning for improvement and the submission of the school's action plan to the Department in January 2019 and subsequent acceptance of the action plan by the Department to access additional resources as outlined in **Appendix D** of this Circular.

The continuing participation of post-primary schools in the *Scheme* will be contingent on satisfying the conditions of this Circular and any other circulars relating to the *Scheme*. Post-primary schools must demonstrate adequate progress and ongoing improvement in fulfilling the language-based criteria

through the whole-school implementation, monitoring and review of targets set out in their action plans.

Where the Department, at any time, determines that the conditions of the *Scheme* are not being fulfilled, the right is reserved to remove a school from the *Scheme*. In case of dissatisfaction with the Department's decision regarding any specific aspect of the administration of the *Scheme*, an appeal will be considered by an independent panel.

## PART C

### **Roles and responsibilities relating to the co-ordination and implementation of the *Policy* and the *Scheme***

#### **1. Gaeltacht Education Unit**

The dedicated Gaeltacht Education Unit in the Department of Education and Skills will continue to oversee, manage and support the implementation of the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022* and the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* in this next implementation phase.

#### **2. An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) – Actions in 2018 – 2019**

The Gaeltacht Education Unit will continue to be supported by COGG in the implementation of the *Policy* and *Scheme*. Additional resources have been allocated to COGG in 2018 including continued provision for the secondment of two education officers to support the implementation of the *Policy*.

Measures to be implemented by COGG in 2018 include:

- co-ordination of the provision of CPD seminars related to the specific needs of principals and teachers of schools in the Gaeltacht participating in the *Scheme* to support the implementation of their action plans for improvement in immersion education
- ongoing provision and dissemination of information to school communities on the benefits of Irish-medium education
- co-ordination of the development of networks for schools participating in the *Scheme*
- provision of research bursaries to principals and/or teachers participating in the *Scheme* to engage in research on Irish-medium and Gaeltacht education.
- the further development and enhancement of the COGG website as a resource portal with high quality Irish-language resources for schools in the Gaeltacht.

#### **3. Support from the Inspectorate**

- A dedicated team of inspectors will continue to support the Gaeltacht Education Unit through the provision of advisory visits to enable post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht to reflect on the actions they have put in place to respond to the needs of first and second language learners of Irish.
- The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the implementation of post-primary schools' action plans and the progress made in educational provision through the medium of Irish.

- The Inspectorate will also work closely with COGG and the various school support services to ensure an integrated, consistent approach to strengthen educational provision through Irish in Gaeltacht post-primary schools.

### **Further Information/FAQs**

Additional information and updates on the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* and on the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022* are published regularly on the Department's website. A frequently-asked questions (FAQs) document is also available on the Department's website and will continue to be updated.

Queries in relation to the operation of the *Scheme* or the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education* should be emailed to [aog@education.gov.ie](mailto:aog@education.gov.ie) or addressed to: **An tAonad um Oideachas Gaeltachta, An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, Sráid Maoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cliath 1, DO1 RC96**

**Principals of post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas are asked to please bring this Circular to the attention of each member of the board of management / Education and Training Boards, teachers (including those on leave of absence), the school patron, ancillary staff, parents/guardians, and the local school community. This Circular can be accessed on the Department's website at the following link: [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)**

Treasa Kirk  
Gaeltacht Education Unit  
Department of Education and Skills

**March 2018**

## Appendix A

### **Update on post-primary schools' response to the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* (April 2017 to April 2018) and on the implementation of other *Policy on Gaeltacht Education* actions**

- The vast majority of post-primary schools in Gaeltacht Language-Planning Areas opted to participate in the *Scheme* in 2017/18 school year. With the publication of this Circular, the Department is now providing a further opportunity for any post-primary school in the Gaeltacht not yet in the *Scheme* to participate in the 2018/19 school year.
- A total of 27 advisory visits were carried out by a dedicated team of inspectors between September and November 2017 to support post-primary schools in the *Scheme* in their action-planning for improvement linked to language-based criteria to strengthen their educational provision in immersion education.
- All post-primary schools that expressed an interest in the *Scheme* in 2017 received additional Continuing Professional Development (CPD) co-ordinated by COGG in conjunction with relevant support services and the Department's Inspectorate.
- All post-primary schools that opted to participate in the *Scheme* during the 2017/2018 school year submitted their action plans to the Department in accordance with the terms of Circular 0034/2017. All action plans have been reviewed by the Gaeltacht Education Unit and post-primary schools have been notified of the outcome of the review. Additional follow-up support is being provided in the form of additional advisory visits, as required.

### **Update on the implementation of teacher education actions as set out in the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022* (April 2017 to April 2018)**

- Following ongoing consultation and collaboration between the Department of Education and Skills and the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), a Request for Tenders (RFT) for the design, development and delivery of two new Irish-medium teacher education courses was published by the OGP on behalf of the Department in late December 2017. The new teacher education programmes include a full-time 4-year Irish-medium Initial Teacher Education (ITE) B.Ed. programme (primary teaching) and a part-time 2-year Irish-medium M.Ed. postgraduate teacher education programme for practising primary and post-primary teachers including principals.
- The objective of the introduction of the two new Irish-medium teacher education programmes is to increase the supply of teachers who can provide high quality Irish-medium education and also to enhance the Irish language proficiency of existing teachers.
- The planned commencement date for the Irish-medium B.Ed. is September 2019, while the Irish-medium M.Ed. will commence in September 2018.
- As part of the *Policy* implementation, the Department also provided 2 additional teaching posts on the *Máistir Gairmiúil san Oideachas* teacher education programme at the National University Ireland, Galway (NUIG) via secondment arrangements. The objective of these 2 additional posts is to work towards increasing the number of post-primary teachers who can deliver a range of subjects through the medium of Irish.



## Appendix B

### Expression of Interest Form for participation in a Pilot Irish-language development programme

#### To be completed by the management of post-primary schools participating in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme*

If eligible, please return your completed Expression of Interest Form for the pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás) to the Gaeltacht Education Unit either electronically to [aog@education.gov.ie](mailto:aog@education.gov.ie) or by post to: An tAonad um Oideachas Gaeltachta, An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, Sráid Maoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cliath 1, DO1 RC96 no later than Friday, 4 May 2018.

The Gaeltacht Education Unit in the Department is making provision for the implementation of a pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás) in two post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht participating in the *Scheme*, with an expected commencement date of the beginning of the 2018/19 school year. This will involve the allocation of one additional whole-time equivalent teacher in each of the two post-primary schools selected.

The overall objective of the pilot programme, which will be delivered in two schools that provide full instruction through the medium of Irish, is to support junior cycle students with low proficiency in Irish on a transitional basis beginning with first year students to enable them access supplementary supports to improve their proficiency in Irish so that they may beneficially engage with the all-Irish education provision in the school.

**Two post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas will be chosen using the following selection criteria:**

- The post-primary school must have a minimum enrolment of 150 students
- The post-primary school must be already operating through the medium of Irish
- The post-primary school must already be participating in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* and have their action plan submitted and accepted by the Department.

**Other factors that will be considered by the Department in the selection process will be:**

- Existing teaching staffing level in the post-primary school
- language profile of feeder primary schools e.g. a breakdown of student numbers expected to be enrolled in first year from Irish-medium, English-medium, and bilingual feeder primary schools
- evidence provided by the post-primary school outlining how the additional teaching post will be used to meet the objectives of the pilot Irish-language development programme (Forás).

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate the reasons for your expression of interest to be involved in Forás, the pilot Irish-language development programme (max 200 words). Please ensure that the following areas are addressed in your response:**

- Profile of the school
- Names and language profile of all feeder primary schools (please a breakdown of student numbers expected to be enrolled in first year from Irish-medium, English-medium, and bilingual feeder primary schools). **Please do not include the personal details of students on this form.**
- How the post-primary school proposes to deploy the additional teacher to meet the Forás language development programme objectives to support junior cycle students with low proficiency in Irish on a transitional basis and enable them access supplementary supports to improve their proficiency in Irish.

It is possible that the information provided by you in this form may become the subject of a request under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014, and this may lead to some or all of it being released to a requester. We are therefore requesting you, as part of your reply, to identify any information in your reply which you deem to be sensitive and exempt from release under the FOI Act. This will assist the Department of Education and Skills in the decision-making process if a FOI request is received.

**We wish to register our school's interest in being considered as a participant school in the pilot Irish-language development programme (*Forás*):**      Yes       No

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive / Chairperson of the Board  
of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix C

### Expression of Interest Form for participation in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme*

To be completed by the management of post-primary schools in Gaeltacht language-planning areas

Please return your completed Expression of Interest Form for participation in the *Scheme* to the Gaeltacht Education Unit either electronically to [aog@education.gov.ie](mailto:aog@education.gov.ie) or by post to: An tAonad um Oideachas Gaeltachta, An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, Sráid Maoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cliath 1, DO1 RC96 no later than 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to confirm that the content of Circulars 0034/2017 and 0022/2018 and the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* was discussed at meetings with the teaching staff, the parents' association, and the board of management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Chief Executive / Chairperson of the  
Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to confirm that the content of Circulars 0034/2017 and 0022/2018 and the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme* was discussed with the Chairperson of the Gaeltacht language-planning committee:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of language-planning committee

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**3) In expressing interest in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme*, please provide a short account on the following (max 200 words):**

- The school's decision regarding participation in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme*
- The steps which were taken to come to the decision to participate in the *Scheme*
- Any initiatives which the school is currently involved in to promote the Irish language in the community
- The contact the school has made with the committee responsible for the language plan in its Gaeltacht language-planning area to ensure that the committee is aware of the school's interest in participating in the *Scheme* to achieve Gaeltacht school status.

It is possible that the information provided by you in this form may become the subject of a request under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014, and this may lead to some or all of it being released to a requester. We are therefore requesting you, as part of your reply, to identify any information in your reply which you deem to be sensitive and exempt from release under the FOI Act. This will assist the Department of Education and Skills in the decision-making process if a FOI request is received. Please note that information contained in this form may also be provided to COGG to facilitate its role in the implementation of the *Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022*.

**I wish to REGISTER OUR SCHOOL'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST to participate in the *Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Chief Executive / Chairperson of the  
Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix D

### Programme of Supports for post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht that wish to express an interest to participate in the *Scheme* in 2018/19 (Amended extract from Circular 0034/2017)

- **Seminars for school communities:** In Autumn 2018, COGG, in collaboration with the Department and other interested parties, will co-ordinate a seminar in the Gaeltacht language-planning area, as required, to raise the awareness of the board of management, parents and representatives from language-planning committees to support and enhance Irish-medium education in schools participating in the *Scheme*.
- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD):** Any post-primary school in the Gaeltacht opting to participate in the *Scheme* will be provided with additional CPD, which will be co-ordinated by COGG, in conjunction with relevant support services and the Department of Education and Skills' Inspectorate. This CPD will comprise two seminars/sessions for the principal and one other member of the teaching staff in Autumn 2018 to assist the school to ensure that there is a whole-school focus in their action-planning processes to enhance the quality of education through Irish. Follow-up workshops will be provided in school clusters from January to June 2019 in response to identified local needs to strengthen Irish-medium educational provision. If necessary, and as resources permit, substitution for attendance at these seminars/workshops will be provided. **A schedule of the information seminars and CPD for any post-primary schools opting to participate in the *Scheme* will be provided by COGG in collaboration with other support services, as necessary, in advance of each school term.**
- **Additional hours to support action-planning in the school year from September 2018 to June 2019:** In order to support any post-primary school in a Gaeltacht language-planning area opting to participate in the *Scheme* in 2018, additional hours, relative to school size, will be provided for the post-primary school. These hours must be used by the post-primary school in the period **September 2018 to June 2019** for the purpose of progressing whole-school action-planning linked to the language-based criteria for Gaeltacht school recognition, as set out in section 3.2 of Circular 0034/2017. The allocation of these hours for any remaining post-primary school in a Gaeltacht language-planning area opting to participate in the *Scheme* from September 2018 to June 2019 is as follows:
  - **Small post-primary schools** in Gaeltacht language-planning areas with an enrolment of less than 150 students will be allocated 2 hours per week per school to engage in action-planning
  - **Medium-sized post-primary schools** with an enrolment of 150-300 students will be allocated 4 hours per week per school to engage in action-planning
  - **Large post-primary schools** with an enrolment of more than 300 students will be allocated 5 hours per week per school to engage in action-planning
- **Inspectorate Support:** A dedicated team of inspectors will provide advice, support and feedback to post-primary schools opting to participate in the *Scheme* in 2018/19 on their target-setting and whole-school action planning for improvement using language-based criteria to support the implementation of high quality immersion education.
- **Grant allocation:** Any post-primary school in a Gaeltacht language-planning area opting to participate in the *Scheme* in 2018/19 will be required to submit its action plans for improvement to the Department by 31 January 2019. Subject to the approval of the action plan, a grant of €1,200 will be allocated to the post-primary school in May 2019 to pay for additional Irish-medium resources to support the implementation of the school's action plan. Post-primary schools are required to retain all receipts and records of expenditure incurred for audit purposes in accordance with public procurement procedures.

## Appendix E

### Membership of the Gaeltacht Education Policy Advisory Committee:

- An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG)
- An Foras Pátrúnachta
- Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS)
- Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland (ASTI)
- Association of Teacher Education Centres of Ireland (ATECI)
- Catholic Education - An Irish Schools' Trust (CEIST)
- Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta
- Conference of Heads of Irish Colleges of Education (CHOICE)
- Conradh na Gaeilge
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA)
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG)
- Department of Health
- Early Childhood Ireland
- Educational Research Centre (ERC)
- Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)
- Foras na Gaeilge
- Gaeloideachas
- Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO)
- Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN)
- Irish Secondary Students' Union (ISSU)
- Joint Managerial Body (JMB)
- Muintearas
- National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)
- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)
- National Council for Special Education (NCSE)
- National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
- National Parents' Council - Post Primary
- National Parents' Council – Primary
- National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)
- Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne
- Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)
- State Examination Commission (SEC)
- Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI)
- Teaching Council
- Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta
- Údarás na Gaeltachta