



Statement from An Coimisinéir Teanga

‘Announcement by the Minister for Education of new criteria for the founding of Gaelscoileanna is a positive development’ – An Coimisinéir Teanga

An Coimisinéir Teanga Rónán Ó Domhnaill has welcomed today’s announcement by the Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh, T.D., that 5 of the 13 primary schools to be established between now and 2022 have been predesignated as Irish – medium schools.

In an investigation conducted by An Coimisinéir Teanga in 2017 he ruled that the Department of Education and Skills breached language provisions of the Education Act, 1998, when a patronage application for a new Irish-medium primary school in the Drumcondra/Marino/Dublin 1 school planning area was rejected. An Coimisinéir Teanga ruled that the language objectives of the Education Act were not adequately addressed in the evaluation process for deciding school patrons.

The implementation of the report’s recommendations are a matter of continuing discussion with the Department of Education and Skills. Today’s announcement that the evaluation criteria for the patronage process are being changed is a positive development that will benefit Irish-medium education. It means that the option of an Irish-medium education should be available in the future in areas where a new school is being built but where that option is not available at present. It should also be ensured that the measures introduced by the Department of Education and Skills meet the extra demand for Irish-medium education and that is a matter that is still being discussed with the Department.

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