

# Irish-Medium Education: The Benefits - Supported by Research

An Chomhairle um Oideachas  
Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta



INSTITIÚID OIDEACHAIS  
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## Preface

I warmly welcome the publication of this Guide on the many advantages of immersion education. The advantages associated with immersion education are set out here in an easily accessible way. I hope that principals, teachers and all education practitioners will use this Guide as a means to communicate the advantages of immersion education to parents.

It is difficult to summarise the amount of research that has been carried out on various aspects of immersion education in Ireland in over twenty years, a significant percentage of which was funded by COGG. All research funded by COGG is published on the organisation's website. It would be difficult, however, to easily access the findings and key messages in that significant corpus of research.

Towards the end of 2023 expressions of interest were sought from educational institutions and researchers to undertake a comprehensive critical examination and scrutiny of all of the research on immersion education carried out in Ireland. Dr. Claire Dunne on behalf of Marino Institute of Education was the successful recipient of the contract. Her final and complete analysis *Immersion Education at Primary Level in Ireland: Insights from National Research*, is available on COGG's website for those who may wish to examine the research in greater depth.

The analysis of the research is extremely important in that it highlights the evidence that there are significant advantages associated with immersion education. It is essential that those research-based advantages are shared in an accessible way with schools and with the education sector in general, so that they can highlight this information for parents making choices in relation to their children's education. This resource was developed for that purpose.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Claire Dunne for her hard work and dedication to this important work and to all of those who engaged in research for over the past twenty years to significantly increase the corpus of research on immersion education in Ireland.

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## Advantages of Immersion Education

In immersion education, children study all subject areas through the target language. In Ireland, there are Gaeltacht schools and Irish-medium schools outside of the Gaeltacht. Irish-medium education is available in early years' settings, in primary schools, and in post-primary schools. There are some Irish-medium courses available at third level too. The aim of Irish-medium education is to provide a high standard of education, as well as fostering a high standard of communication skills. This strong foundation helps children to become members of Irish-language communities and networks, and supports new speakers of Irish (Ó Duibhir, 2018). Irish-medium education supports children in Gaeltacht areas, and areas outside of the Gaeltacht, whose home language is Irish, or who use Irish and another language in the home.

When children start in Irish-medium education (or immersion education), they begin a language journey bringing with it a number of benefits, that support their holistic development. International research shows that bilingual and plurilingual people have a range of advantages, for example, academic, social, linguistic and economic advantages (Ó Ceallaigh, 2013).

Research into immersion education at primary level in Ireland, shows that children gain advantages in the following areas of development:

<b>Academic Advantages</b> 	Children in Irish-medium schools perform as well or better than children in English-medium schools (Gilleece et al., 2012; McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012a; Parsons and Lyddy, 2016). As with their peers, children with special and additional needs who attend Irish-medium education gain advantages in many of the same academic and developmental areas: bilingualism, ability in Irish, academic advantages in post-primary school, self-confidence and a positive school culture (Nic Aindriú, 2019).
<b>Linguistic Advantages</b> 	Children in immersion education generally achieve high proficiency in English (Educational Research Centre, 2024; Ó hAiniféin, 2008; Parsons and Lyddy, 2016). Irish-medium education helps children achieve a higher proficiency in Irish, than when Irish is studied as a subject only (Harris et al., 2006; Ó Duibhir, 2018). Immersion education helps children to develop positive attitudes towards learning Irish (Kiely et al., 2022; Kiely et al., 2024; Ó Duibhir et al., 2017).
<b>Plurilingual Advantages</b> 	In learning Irish, children become part of the contemporary plurilingual community. Children in immersion education also show an interest in learning other languages (Dillon, 2009; Kiely et al., 2024). Children in immersion education show an advantage in learning a third language (Prats Porcar, 2013). Parents of children who speak languages other than Irish or English at home see the benefits of immersion education in contributing to an increase in their children's plurilingual ability (Ní Dhiorbháin, Connaughton-Crean and Ó Duibhir, 2023).
<b>Social Advantages</b> 	Children in Irish-medium schools show some social advantages in terms of making and maintaining friendships (McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012a).
<b>Cultural and Intercultural Advantages</b> 	Children in immersion education have increased opportunities to experience the arts and cultural events (Kiely et al., 2022; Kiely et al., 2024; McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012b). Children in Irish-medium schools read for pleasure more frequently (McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012a). Children in immersion education deepen their understanding of Irish culture, allowing them to share in a unique and rich strand of the cultural heritage of Irish society (CNCM, 2019). They demonstrate an awareness of historical events and folklore, as well as symbols of European identity (Lennon Malbasha, Dautel and Taylor, 2022), and also show an interest in developing intercultural awareness (Kiely et al., 2024).
<b>Cognitive Advantages</b> 	Children in immersion education show some cognitive advantages, especially in engaging in complex executive function tasks e.g. sorting and classifying items (Stephens, 2013). They also show advantages in metalinguistic skills, namely, being able to think about and discuss different aspects of language, e.g. grammar and syntax (Dillon, 2009; Harris and O'Leary, 2012; Kiely et al., 2024; Prats Porcar, 2013).

## Irish-Medium Education and the Child's Holistic Development

Immersion education at primary level, in Gaeltacht schools and Irish-medium schools outside of the Gaeltacht, supports children's development, contributing to many academic, linguistic, plurilingual, social, cultural, intercultural, and cognitive advantages. However many of the advantages outlined in this handbook also apply to children attending Irish-medium post-primary schools. COGG hopes to make a separate publication available for the post-primary sector.

### Academic Advantages

Overall, children in Irish-medium schools do as well or better than children in English-medium schools (Gilleece et al., 2012; McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012a; Ó hAiniféin, 2008; Parsons and Lyddy, 2016), and there is generally a high standard of education in Irish-medium schools (ETI Northern Ireland, 2018).

Children in immersion education bring with them a variety of talents, needs, interests and personalities (Dunne and Ní Aogáin, 2025; Nic Aindriú, 2019) and no two learners are alike (Ní Chlochasaigh, 2020). They require some of the same supports as children in English-medium schools, as well as some specific supports for language and literacy in Irish. As with their peers, children with special and additional needs who attend Irish-medium education gain advantages in many of the same academic and developmental areas: bilingualism, ability in Irish, academic advantages in post-primary school, self-confidence and a positive school culture (Nic Aindriú, 2019).

### Linguistic Advantages

Immersion education gives children the opportunity to develop literacy in the two formal languages of the school: Irish and English. Linguistic development in one language supports development in other languages (August and Shanahan, 2006; Baker and Wright, 2017; Ó Duibhir and Cummins, 2012). It has been observed that the second language / additional language is acquired through immersion education without adversely affecting first language acquisition (Harris et al., 2006; Shiel et al., 2011).

Children in immersion education generally achieve proficiency in the majority language (McVeigh, Wylie and Mulhern, 2019; Ó hAiniféin, 2008; Parsons and Lyddy, 2016). As is clear in the case of Welsh, the contact that children have with English outside of school helps to overcome any gap related to the formal teaching of the majority language in the early years of immersion education (Rhys and Thomas, 2013).

Children in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland performed very well overall in English reading in the most recent *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study* (PIRLS), with a significant increase in average achievement in the Republic of Ireland (although it should be noted that participating children were slightly older than usual, due to delays caused by COVID-19) (Delaney et al., 2023). Children in Irish-medium schools were included in these samples. In the Republic of Ireland, an additional analysis supplied by the Educational Research Centre<sup>1</sup> indicates that children in Irish-medium schools performed at least as well as peers in English-medium schools, on average. This means that children in Irish-medium schools performed very strongly relative to peers internationally.

Children who attend Irish-medium schools achieve a higher level of proficiency in Irish compared to children who study Irish as a subject only (Harris et al., 2006; Ó Duibhir, 2018). They generally demonstrate positive attitudes towards learning Irish too (Kiely et al., 2022; Kiely et al., 2024; Ó Duibhir et al., 2017). There is a continuum of bilingualism / plurilingualism, and people can use their language repertoire in different ways and in different contexts. More creative technologies are now available in Irish. Alternative and Augmentative Communication technologies that are being developed in Trinity College Dublin, will enable children to communicate through choosing a series of words or images, allowing Irish speakers to communicate in more flexible ways (Barnes et al., 2022).



<sup>1</sup> Personal communication with the Educational Research Centre, 18 July 2024.

## Plurilingual Advantages

Gaeltacht schools and Irish-medium schools outside of the Gaeltacht, contribute to linguistic diversity in Ireland by creating a space in which children can have regular contact with Irish. Over 200 languages are currently used in Ireland, including three indigenous minoritised languages: Irish, Irish Sign Language and Traveller Cant. Immersion education gives children the opportunity to acquire the Irish language and to enrich their language proficiency, as well as to develop an appreciation of themselves as plurilingual speakers.

Children in Irish-medium schools show an advantage in learning a third language (Prats Porcar, 2013). Parents of children who speak languages other than Irish or English at home see the benefits of immersion education in contributing to an increase in their children's plurilingual ability (Ní Dhiorbháin, Connaughton-Crean and Ó Duibhir, 2023).

## Social Advantages

Children in Irish-medium schools outside of the Gaeltacht show a number of social advantages. Research shows they keep in touch with their friends by meeting them face to face or connecting with them on social media. Sometimes children from different areas travel to Irish-medium schools and this helps encourage them to keep in touch with their friends outside of school (McCoy, Quail, and Smyth, 2012a).



## Cultural and Intercultural Advantages

Immersion education not only supports linguistic advantages, but it has a positive effect on other areas of children's development. Children in Irish-medium schools read for pleasure more frequently (McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012a). Reading for pleasure helps foster a positive attitude towards the Irish language (Devitt et al., 2018).

Children in Irish-medium schools have increased opportunities to engage in Drama, Music, and Physical Education (McCoy, Quail and Smyth, 2012b). Engagement with cultural aspects during schooling especially supports their academic achievement (McCoy, Quail, and Smyth, 2012a). Children also report that they really enjoy these curricular areas (Kiely et al., 2024).

Children in immersion education deepen their understanding of Irish culture, allowing them to share in a unique and rich strand of the cultural heritage of Irish society (CNCM, 2019). They demonstrate an awareness of historical events and folklore, as well as symbols of European identity (Lennon Malbasha, Dautel and Taylor, 2022). They also show an interest in developing intercultural awareness (Kiely et al., 2024).

## Cognitive Advantages

Research into the impact of school-based bilingualism in Ireland demonstrates that it has no negative impact on executive function, namely, the ability to recall, classify and sort objects etc. (Kennedy, 2012). Children in Irish-medium schools show advantages in engaging in complex executive function tasks (Stephens, 2013), consistent with international research (Bialystok, 2009). They also show advantages in metalinguistic skills, namely, being able to think about and discuss different aspects of language e.g. grammar and syntax (Dillon, 2009; Harris and O'Leary, 2012; Kiely et al., 2024; Prats Porcar, 2013).

## Summary

Irish-medium education supports children's holistic development. On the whole, children in immersion education do as well or better, compared to children in English-medium schools, and they gain a range of advantages in different areas. Children come to school with different talents, interests, and needs. Every child can benefit from Irish-medium education provided there are inclusive pedagogies, and whole-school planning, as well as appropriate resources available.

## Growth and Development of Irish-Medium Education

Bilingual education dates back to Roman and Greek times, and today, immersion and bilingual programmes are available in the majority of countries around the world (Hornberger, 2008; Ó Broin, 2015). Ireland is no exception, and has a rich and interesting history when it comes to immersion education. Irish-medium education is important, not just in terms of language revitalisation, but also in terms of providing choice in education types, and supporting parental involvement. Irish-medium education has grown and developed over the years. Some of the key developments are outlined below.

- 1908** – Pádraig Mac Piarais founded Scoil Éanna where subjects were taught bilingually.
- 1917** – Luíse Ghabhánach Ní Dhufaigh and Áine Nic Aodha co-founded the first Irish-medium school.
- 1922** – Immersion education was introduced in infant classes in the Free State.
- 1952** – Scoil Lorcáin, the first Irish-medium primary school in the Republic of Ireland, was founded in Dublin. Other Irish-medium primary schools began to emerge later, including Scoil Neasáin (1969), Scoil an tSeachta Laoch (1973) and Scoil Naithí (1973).
- 1960s** – Native speakers gathered to form an urban Gaeltacht on the Shaw's Road in West Belfast.
- 1969** – Coláiste Eoin was founded, followed by Coláiste Íosagáin (1971), in order to provide an option for Irish-medium post-primary education.
- 1970s** – Parents, families and educators came together to establish more Irish-medium schools.
- 1971** – Bunscoil Phobal Feirste was founded, the first Irish-medium school in Northern Ireland.
- 1972** – Comhdháil na Scoileanna Gaelacha (Congress of Irish-Medium Schools) was founded in Galway.
- 1973** – Comhchoiste Náisiúnta na Scoileanna Gaeilge (Joint National Committee of Irish-Medium Schools), was founded in Dublin.
- 1974-1976** – The two organisations subsequently branded as Gaelscoileanna Teo. now operating as Gaeloideachas, came together to support the growth in Irish-medium education.
- 1981** – Coláiste Chillain was founded in Clondalkin, the first Irish-medium post-primary school outside of the Gaeltacht under the auspices of Na Coistí Gairmoideachais (Committees for Vocational Education).
- 1983** – The first all-Irish centre in Northern Ireland was established in Derry City.
- 1987** – Eagraíocht na Scoileanna Gaeltachta (Organisation for Gaeltacht schools) was founded.

**1990s** – More support is available for immersion education in Northern Ireland due to the Good Friday Agreement (1998), The Education Order (1998) and the establishment of Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (2000), and Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta (2001).

**1991** – The first post-primary school, Coláiste Feirste (Meánscoil Feirste) was established in Northern Ireland. Gaeloiliúint was also founded, the first umbrella organisation for Irish-medium schools in Northern Ireland.

**1993** – An Foras Pátrúnachta was established in order to provide a further option for new Irish-medium schools in terms of patronage and is now the biggest patron of Irish-medium schools.

**1993** – Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn was founded in Cork, the first Irish-medium multidenominational school.

**1995** – An Irish-medium Postgraduate Certificate in Education was started in Coláiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire (St. Mary's University College), Belfast. The following year, the first cohort of Irish-medium BEd students commenced their degree through the medium of Irish.

**1996** – Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin was founded in Wicklow, the first Irish-medium interdenominational school.

**1998** – The Higher Diploma in Education, a post-primary qualification, was launched at the University of Galway. Since 2014 this is known as the Professional Master of Education.

**2002** – An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta. (COGG) was established.

**2011** – A Masters in Irish-Medium Education commenced in Coláiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire (St. Mary's University College), Belfast.

**2013** – A Masters in Irish-Medium and Gaeltacht Education commenced in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. From 2023, this Masters is delivered by Trinity College Dublin.

**2016** – The Policy for Gaeltacht Education was published and the Gaeltacht Education Unit was established in the Department of Education.

**2019** – The first cohort started the Bachelor of Education through the medium of Irish in Marino Institute of Education.

**2024** – The national consultation on Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht was published and a new policy on Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht is currently being developed by the Department of Education.

## Supporting your Child in Irish-Medium Education

The involvement of parents, family and other important people in the child's life, is central to the vision for immersion education in Ireland. Parents, families and educators work together to found and continually support Irish-medium schools. Parents and families have different levels of confidence in using Irish, but a positive attitude to and interest in the language can make a big difference (Harris et al., 2006). No two parents or families are the same, and everyone brings with them their own experiences and talents. These experiences and talents can be drawn upon to support your child's educational journey in a number of different ways.

- Support your child's literacy skills in your native language.  
Enjoy reading stories together at home.
- Praise your child for their efforts in speaking and using Irish.
- Ask your child to teach you something they have learned in Irish e.g. a poem or a song.
- Familiarise yourself with different areas of the curriculum that your child will be learning in order to support their homework. Information and support are available on the [www.gaeleoideachas.ie](http://www.gaeleoideachas.ie) page, under the Tuismitheoirí / Parents section.
- Familiarise yourself with the learning resources for children available at [www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie), under the section An Tairseach.
- Use the resources available at [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie), in the Gaeilge sa Bhaile / Irish at Home section, to use the Irish you have in a fun way with your child.
- Find out more about the supports for parents and families, who wish to increase their use of Irish at home, available at [www.glornangael.ie/teangati/comhairle/](http://www.glornangael.ie/teangati/comhairle/).
- Participate in bilingual / plurilingual events at school.
- Find out whether there are Irish / plurilingual events taking place in your community, e.g. the Mother Tongues festival.



## Conclusion

Immersion education in Ireland has a rich and interesting history, and there continues to be an interest in and demand for Irish-medium schools. Some parents even have personal experience of the immersion education system themselves. Children in Irish-medium schools have the opportunity to engage in all areas of the curriculum, as well as acquiring Irish and enriching their language skills. Irish-medium schools support the development of language and literacy skills in English, and in Irish in particular. On the whole, children in immersion education perform as well or better in terms of English, than children in English-medium schools. In addition to this, children acquire the Irish language and develop positive attitudes towards the language.

Irish-medium schools contribute to linguistic diversity in Ireland by creating a space in which children can have regular contact with the Irish language. This experience helps children to become part of the contemporary international bilingual / plurilingual community. It is acknowledged in the research and in the Primary Language Curriculum (2019) that there is a continuum of bilingualism / plurilingualism and that people use their language repertoire in different ways and in different contexts.

To get the most out of Irish-medium education, it is necessary to foster strong links between the school, the home, and the community, and to work together to promote a whole-school approach. At each stage of the educational journey, language support and other types of support are required, both inside the classroom and outside of it, in order for children to reach their full potential.

Children in Irish-medium schools, like all children, have a variety of talents, needs, interests and personalities. They need some of the same supports as children in English-medium schools, but they also need special supports in terms of the Irish language. Irish-medium education can support all children on their educational journey, provided there are inclusive pedagogies, whole-school planning, as well as resources available.

The full research report, *An Tumoideachas ag an mBunleibhéal in Éirinn: Léargas ón Taighde Náisiúnta / Immersion Education at Primary Level in Ireland: Insights from National Research*, which examines in closer detail the studies that underpin this handbook, can be found at [www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie). It is hoped that the report will be of help to anyone undertaking research on Irish-medium education.

Over the coming years, we can learn from the experiences of Irish-medium schools in different settings and contexts, in order to provide sustainable support so that parents and families can continue to choose immersion education. The Department of Education is currently developing a policy for Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht, following the publication of the Policy on Gaeltacht Education (DES, 2016). COGG and Institiúid Oideachais Marino would like to express their thanks to Claire M. Dunne for preparing this handbook and the full research report.



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Ta stáirí shabhrí shumilíil ag an tumoidéachas in Éirinn agus ta éileamh ar na scóileanna tumoidéachas i gcoinal. Tá tathairí phearasanta ag roinnt tulismhitheoirí ar an gcoleas tumoidéachas iad fein. Brionn deis ag Paisi an tathairí faoi réimsí iomlana an churacáil, mar aon leis an Gaeilge a shealbhú agus a shabhbhú ag an am céanna. Tacaíonn scóileanna tumoidéachais le forbairt cumas teanaga agus litterachta sa Bhéarla, agus sa Ghaeilge ach go háirithe. Thar an iomlán, tumoidéachas is a eiríonn le Paisi! scóileanna lán- shin, seabhalbairn Paisi! an Gháelteachta leis an dearcthaí dearfacha i leith na teanaga.

Cuirteann scóileanna Gaeltachta agus scóileanna lán-Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Gháelteachta leis an eagaislácht teanacha atá ar fáil in Éirinn tri spás a churthu do phaisítear teagmháil rialta a bhéith acu leis an Ngaeilge. Cabhráonn an tathair a bhéith sa tigheadh mar chuid den phobal daththeangach / iteangach comhaimseartha idirmáisíunta. Aithnítear sa tigheadh agus i gCuracálm Teanga na Bunscoile (2019), go bhfuil contanam daththeangachais / iteangachais ann agus go mbainneann daoinne úsáid as a stór teanagacha i mbéalair éagsúla agus i gcomhthíreachasanna éagsúla.

Chun an tairbhe is mór a bhaint as an gcoleas tumoidéachais, is gá naisc láidre a chothu ídir an scoil, an baile, agus an pobal, chomh maith le bheith ag chur chun cinn. Ag gach stáid den aistíear oideachais obarí laimh a chéile agus cur chunigé uile-scoilé a rangá, agus lasmuigh de, ge gur feidir le Paisi! bar a ta tacailochtaí teanaga agus éile de chith sa Seomra Chúnamh, agus láimh a chéile agus cur chunigé uile-scoilé a an baile, agus an pobal, chomh maith le bheith ag tumoidéachais, is gá naisc láidre a chothu ídir an scoil, an baile, agus an pobal, chomh maith le bheith ag

## Concluid



Féile Mother Tongues.

Faigh amach an bhfuil imeachtai Gaeltig / /litteangacha ar siúl sa cheantair, mar shampla,

Glaic pairt in imeachtar dathennagacha / /litteangacha na scóile.

[www.gjornanganageel.ie/teannagait/comhairle/](http://www.gjornanganageel.ie/teannagait/comhairle/).

Faigh amach níos mó faoi na tacailcorthaí do thuismitheoirí agus do theaghláigh,  
ar mian leo cur leis an meid Gaeltig a úsáideann siad sa bhaile, atá ar fáil ag

chun an meid Gaeltig atá agat a úsáid go spraillí le do pháistí.

Bain úsáid as na haiséanna atá ar fáil ar an suíomh [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie), faoin rannún Gaeltig sa Bhaile,

An Tairseach.

Téigh i dtathír ar na haiséanna foghlama do pháisti atá ar fáil ar [www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie), faoin rannún

faoin rannún Tuismitheoirí.

Téigh i dtathír ar na réimsí curaílim a bhéidh a ndéanamh ag do pháiste chun tacú le  
hobair bhaile. Tá eolas agus tacailcorth ar fáil ar an suíomh [www.gaeolideachas.ie](http://www.gaeolideachas.ie),

mar shampla, dán nō amhrán.

Láir ar do pháiste rud a dhíoghlaim siad i nGaeilge a mhúineadh duit,

Tabhair moladh diarrachtaí do pháiste le Gaeilge a labhairt agus a úsáid.

Bain sult as scéalta a léamh le chéile sa bhaile.

Tacáigh le forbairt sciléanna lítearthaacha do pháiste i do mhathairtheanga.

tarraingt ar an tathír agus na buanna seo chun tacú le haiséaroidíeachais an pháiste ar lioimad bealaí.

Ní hiomann gach tuismitheoir ná gach teaghlach, ach tugann gach duine go leor tathír agus buanna leo. Is féidir i leith na teangea, agus má tá spéis sa Ghaeilge, is féidir leis sin difriocht mhor a dhéanamh (Harris et al., 2006).

éagsúla muiilne i measc tuismitheoirí agus teaghlach maidir le Gaeilge a úsáid. Ach má tá dearfach ann lamha a chéile chun scoláanna Gaeltacha agus scoláanna Lán-Ghaeltig a bhunu agus a bhuannu. Bíonn leibhéal tabhachtacha éille i saol an pháiste. Is iad na tuismitheoirí, na teaghláigh agus na hoidéachasgír a obriónas

Is ag coróilír fhís an tumoideachais in Éirinn atá rannpháirtíocht tuismitheoirí, an teaghláigh agus daoinne

## Ag Tacú le do Pháiste sa Chóras Tumoideachais

1987 - Bunáidh Eagrachtaí na Scóileanna Gaeltachta.

1983 - Bunáidh an chéad aonad ian-Ghaeilge i dtuaisceart Éireann i gcaithair Dhoire.

1981 - Bunáidh Coláistí Chilleáin i gCill Chain Dolcain, an chéad iar-bhunscoil ian-Ghaeilge faoi stílir na GCoiste Garimodéachais lasmuigh den Ghaeilge.

1979 - Bunáidh Comhchóiste Naisiúnta na Scóileanna an eagráiochtanois.

1974-1976 - Chomhdhulúthagh an da éagráiocht thusaí mar theideal na h eagráiochta. Tugtar Gaelscoiléanna ar an bhfod, agus glacadh leis an aimm Gaelscoiléanna chun tacu leis an gcoras tuimodéachais a bhlí ag teacht agus bunaodh an tanada um Oideachas Gaeltachta san Marino.

1973 - Bunáidh Comhchóiste Naisiúnta na Scóileanna Gaillimh.

1972 - Bunáidh Comhdháil na Scóileanna Gaeltachta, scóil ian-Ghaeilge i dtuaisceart Éireann.

1971 - Bunáidh Bunscoil Phobal Feirste, an chéad tuimodéachais a bhunu.

1970f - Thainig tuismitheoirí, teaghlach agus bhuscailiochta ian-Ghaeilge a chur ar fail.

1969 - Bunáidh Coláistí Eoin, agus Coláistí larthar Bheal Feirste.

1960f - Chrúinnigh Cainteoir duchais a bhunu in Gaeltacht uribeach ar Bhothar Seoighe a bhunu in tseachtaí Laoch (1973) agus Scóil Náthi (1973).

1952 - Bunáidh Scóil Lorcáin i mBaile Átha Cliath, an ranganna náisiúnán sa Sáorstat.

1951 - Thainig an tuimodéachas i bhfeidhm snágaus Aine Nic Aoibhí an chéad scóil ian-Ghaeilge.

1950f - Bhunaigh Pádraig Mac Piarais Scóil Éanna inar mhuineadh abhair go dathengach.

1948 - Thainig fás agus forbartrí ar an oideachas ian-Ghaeilge agus ranpháirtíocht tuismitheoirí de.

1947 - Chomhbhunaigh Luisé Ghabhánach Ni Dhufaigh an tuimodéachais dé le fail ínti. Tá lúach ag baintiú eisíscacht i Éire agus tá stáir shabhir shumíulli o thaoibh (Hornberger, 2008; Ó Broicháin, 2015). Ni haon mór.

1946 - Thainig fás agus forbartrí ar an oideachas ian-Ghaeilge agus ranpháirtíocht tuismitheoirí de.

1945 - Bunáidh An Foras Patrúnachta le go mbéadach ian-Ghaeilge sa lá atá inniu ann.

1943 - Bunáidh An Foras Patrúnachta (2001). Foras Patrúnachta an Pátrún is mó ar scóileanna ag teacht ar an bhfod ó thaoibh patrúnacha de. Is An rógha éille ar fail do scóileanna ian-Ghaeilge a bhlí rogha éille ar fail do scóileanna ian-Ghaeilge a bhlí.

1940f - Tá níos mó taclochtaí ar fail don chóras bhfod. Tá an tuimodéachais i dtuaisceart Éireann mar gheall ar Chomháontú Aoníne an Chéasta (1998), The Education Order (1998) agus buntú Chomháire na Gaelscoláiochta (2000), chomh maith le hiontaobhas Gaelscoláiochta (2001).

1941 - Bunáidh an chéad iar-bhunscoil, Coláistí Teannan an t-oideachas dathengach síar go dtí aimsir na Rómhánach agus na Ghréagach, agus sa lá atá inniu ann ta clár thumodéachais agus cláir dhatheangacha ar fail i dtromlach mór de thiortha an domhain.

**Fás agus Forbartrí an Tuimodéachais**



Buntasti Cognaccha

Seo tuimoidéachas, fagighéann páistí tuiscint níos doimhne ar an gcuilltear Gaeilgeach agus tugtar deis doibh baint a bhfeith acu le snáithe uathúil agus sasalbhír d'oidhreacht chultúirthe shocair na hÉireann (CNCM, 2019). Leirionn siad feasacht ar imeachtaí stáití agus ar an mbéaloidéas, chomh maith leisde siombailt a bhainneann le féiniúlacht Eorpach (Lennonn Malbasha, Daunt agus Taylor, 2022).

Leirionn siad spéis freisin i bhfoarbairt na feasacacha idirchultúra (Kiley et al., 2024).

Clabhsur

Leirionn siad buntáistí meitiúneangólaíochá freisin, cinn sa tagáidé idirnáisiúnta (Bíalystok, 2009). Is éard iarrúintacham (Stéphaneis, 2013), mar a thugadh in chuid Prats Porcar, 2013).

Bunáisiú Cultúrtha agus  
lúchúltaí Cultúrtha

Bíonn níos mó na buntáistí teangeolaíochtaí ag baint leis an gcorras tumoideachaíais agus bíonn tionchar ag an gcheinéal seo oideachaíais ar réimisiú éile d'fhorbairt an phaisite. Is scóiléanna tumoideachaíais, fáigheann páistí níos minice (McCoy, Quail agus Smyth, 2012a). Cabhráilonn an leithéoiríreacht mar chaitheamh aimsire le dearcadh dearfach i leth na Gaeilge (Devitt et al., 2018).

Is scóiléanna tumoideachaíais, fáigheann páistí níos mó tathí ar an Dramaíocht, Ceol, agus Corpóideachaíais a dhéanamh (McCoy, Quail agus Smyth, 2012b). Tacaíonn na gníomhaíche cultúrtha ach go hairithe le gnóthachaitíl acadúil na bpáistí (McCoy, Quail, agus Smyth, 2012a) agus luanann paisíslí go dtatúilteann na habhair seo go mór leo (Kiley et al., 2024).

Buntäistö Sosialta

Cuirleannna scóileanna Láeatachta agus scóileanna  
lán-Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht leis  
éagsúlachta teangacha atá ar fáil in Éirinn, tri spás  
a chruithí do pháistí teagmháil rialta a bhéith acu  
leis an Ghaeilge. Úsáidtear os cionn 200 teanga  
in Éirinn sa lá atá inniu, ina measc, na trí theanga  
Chomhmarthachta na hÉireann agus Caintis. Tuiginn  
an tumoidéachas deis do pháistí an Ghaeilge a  
shealbhú agus a shainbhur, chomh maith le tuliscint a  
fhobairt orthu fein mar chainteoir i litteangacha.  
Sa choras tumoidéachais, leiríonn Paisití bua i  
bhfoighlaim an tríú teanga (Prats Pocrac, 2013).  
Gcás tuismitheoirí a labharlaonn teangacha éile  
seachas an Ghaeilge ná an Béarla sa bhaile,  
feiceann síad na buntáisi a bhainneann leis an  
tumoidéachas chun cur le cumas litteangach a  
bpaistí (Ni Dhiorbháin, Connaguachtón-Crean agus Ó  
Dubhthir, 2023).

## Buntáistí Liteangacha



Bainneann paisistí sa chogras tumsíodéachais inníulacht níos airde amach sa Ghaeilge, ná mar a bhainneann paisist a dhéanannn stáidéar ar an Ngaeilge mar abhar amháin (Harris et al., 2006; Ó Dubháin, 2018). Leiríonn siad dearcadh dearfach i gcotúinne maidir leis an ngaeilge a fhoghlaim (Kieley et al., 2022; Kieley et al., 2024; Ó Dubháin et al., 2017). Tá contanam daithéangachais / litteangachais ann agus bainneann daoinne úsáid as a stor teangeacha i mbéalair eagúsula agus i gcomhthéacsanna éagsúla. Tá forbairt ar na tecineolachaití cruthaitheacha atá ar fáil sa Ghaeilge. Na tecineolachaití don Chumarsáid Mhalarach agus Breisístítheach atá a bhfoibhrait i Gaeilge. Cúlaitise na Tríomhóide, curfídh siad ar chumas daoinne cumarsáid a roghnu, agus beidh cainteoiri Gaeilge in ionmhána a roghnu, agus beidh trí shraith focal níos solúbtha (Barres et al., 2022).

Bainneann Paisistí sa Chóras tumoideachais ar dhúchums agus Muilearm, 2019; Ó Hainiféin, 2008; Parsons agus Ó hUigheanáin, 2016). Mar a leirtear i gcas na Breatainise, an teagmháil a bhíonn ag Paisistí lasmuigh den scoláireachta ar aon bhearna a bhainneann le mhuineadh formúilí leis an MBeárla, cabhráilonn sé le teacht timpeall na mórtéanaga sna lúathbhílinnta déan chóras tumoideachais (Rhys agus Thomas, 2013).

D'eurigh go han-mhaith le Paisistí i bPoblacht na hÉireann agus i dtuaisceart Éireann maidir le littheoiríeacht an Bheárla sa stáidéar is déanaí (PRLS), agus bhí feabhas suntasach tagtha ar ghníomhachtaí Paisistí i scoláanna i Poblacht na hÉireann (Delaney et al., 2023). Bhí Paisistí San anailís bhríseachais san Áireamh sa stáidéar. Táighde ar Oideasachas, taispeántar, ar an meán, gur earrigh chomh maith le Paisistí sa chóras tumoideachais le hais Paisistí i scoláanna lán-Bhéarla, agus gur idirnáisiunta.

Bunáisti Teangeolaíochá

Tá eagaslácht de bhunanna, ríachtanais, spéiseanna agus peerasntacchar i measc na bpáistí a threastalaíonn ar an gcoras tumoidéachais (Dúnne agus Ní Aoigáin, 2025; Ní Chlochasaigh, 2020). Bionn roinnt de na tacalochtaí céanna ag teastailí uathu is a bhíonn ó pháistí i sciolleanna lan-Bhealá, chomh maith le roinnt tacalochtaí a bhainneann leis an teanga ó bheal agus an bpíarlaí, baimeann paisist le ríachtanais spéisialta agus ríachtanais bhrise oideachais buntáistí amach sa choras tumoidéachais i go leor de na réimsí ceannána acadúla agus forbartha: an dátheanagachas, cumas Ghaeilge agus an Béarla. Tacáilonn an fhórbairt i a fhórbairt in dha théanaga fhoirmíulua na scoile: an agus Shanahan, 2006; Baker agus Wright, 2017; Ó Dubhíbhí agus Cummins, 2012). Tá sé teugtha faoi dearra choíras tumoidéachais go sealbháitear an dara do sheabhalbhú na mathairtheanga (Harris et al., 2006; teanga / téanaga bhrise gan dochar a dhéanamh Shiel et al., 2011).

## Buntáistí Teangeolaíoch

Buntáistí Acadúla

Tacailionn an coras tumoidéachais ag an mbunleibheal, idir scoiléanna Gaeltachta agus scoiléanna lan-Ghaelge leasmúigh den Ghaeltacht, le forbairt iomlanaíoch an pháistí. Cuirteann an tumoidéachas le roinnt buntáistí eile, ina measc, buntáistí acadúla, buntáistí teangeolaíochá, buntáistí cultúrtha iteangacha, buntáistí soisialta, buntáistí cultúrtha agus idirchultúra, agus buntáistí cognáiochá. Ach bainneann go leor de na buntáistí a phleitear sa lámhleabhar seo le páistí atá ag freastal ar iarr-bhunscoileanna lan-Ghaelge freisin. Tá sé ar intinn ag COGG fóilsíeachán éile don earnáil.

An Tumodéachas agus Forbairt

<h3>Buntaisti Cognaliocha</h3>  <p>Leirionn siad buntaistí metitheangeolaíochá freisin, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil siad in ann rudar a tascanna casta feidhm feidhmíocháin, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil siad in ann rudar a shorfhail agus a rangú (Stephens, 2013).</p>
<p>Leirionn siad feasacht a imeachtaí stáire agus ar an mbéaloideas, chomh maith le siombail a bheinéann le feinilíocht Eorpaach (Lennon Malbascha, Daetl agus Taylor, 2022). Leirionn siad feasacht a imeachtaí stáire agus ar an mbéaloideas, chomh maith le siombail a bheinéann le feinilíocht Eorpaach (Lennon Malbascha, Daetl agus Taylor, 2022).</p>
<p>Sa tumboldéachas, faighéann paisist roinnt buntaistí cognaliocha, go háirithe maidir le agus idirchultúra (Kieley et al., 2024).</p>
<h3>Buntaisti Cultúrtha</h3>  <p>Sa tumboldéachas, faighéann paisist níos dolimhne ar an gcuultur Gaeltach agus agus idirchultúra (Kieley et al., 2024).</p>
<p>Sa tumboldéachas, faighéann paisist níos dolimhne ar an gcuultur Gaeltach agus agus idirchultúra (Kieley et al., 2024).</p>
<p>Sa tumboldéachas, faighéann paisist níos dolimhne ar an gcuultur Gaeltach agus agus idirchultúra (Kieley et al., 2024).</p>
<h3>Buntaisti Soisialta</h3>  <p>I sciolleana tumboldéachais, leanún paisist roinnt buntaistí soisialta maidir le caridreas a dhéanamh agus a bhunaun (McCoy, Quail agus Smyth, 2012a).</p>
<p>I sciolleana tumboldéachais, leanún paisist roinnt buntaistí soisialta maidir le caridreas a dhéanamh agus a bhunaun (McCoy, Quail agus Smyth, 2012a).</p>
<p>I sciolleana tumboldéachais, leanún paisist roinnt buntaistí soisialta maidir le caridreas a dhéanamh agus a bhunaun (McCoy, Quail agus Smyth, 2012a).</p>
<h3>Buntaisti Litternagacha</h3>  <p>Sa tumboldéachas, leanún paisist bua i bhfoighlaim an trí teanga (Prats Porcar, 2013).</p>
<p>Sa tumboldéachas, leanún paisist bua i bhfoighlaim an trí teanga (Prats Porcar, 2013).</p>
<p>Sa tumboldéachas, leanún paisist bua i bhfoighlaim an trí teanga (Prats Porcar, 2013).</p>
<h3>Buntaisti Gaeilge</h3>  <p>Tríd an Gaeilge a fhoghlaim, tá paisist páirtteach sa phobal comhaimseartha iteangach. Sa tumboldéachas, leanún paisist spéis i deanganacha eile a fhoghlaim chomh maith (Dillon, 2009; Kieley et al., 2024).</p>
<p>Tríd an Gaeilge a fhoghlaim, tá paisist páirtteach sa phobal comhaimseartha iteangach. Sa tumboldéachas, leanún paisist spéis i deanganacha eile a fhoghlaim chomh maith (Dillon, 2009; Kieley et al., 2024).</p>
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Iaispējamām ar tām iedzīvotajām vietas ir ēriņi, kas dzīvo dažādās dabas apstākļos.

Níos airde a thosaigh an paisistí sa Chorras tuimodaeachais, roisíonn siad ar aistíear teangeolaíoch a baint leis. Tacaíonn na buntáistí seo lena bhfoibhíte iomlánach. Taispeáin an t-áit go mbíonn go leor buntáistí ag daoinne dathengacha agus litheanagacha, mar shampla, buntáistí acadaíla, soisialta, teangeolaíoch a ghus eacnamaíoch (Ó Ceallaigh, 2013).

Sa choras tumentídeachas, foghlaimiúnán paisistí gach abhar tríd an spróiseacháin. In Éirinn, ta scolléanna Gaeltachta ann chomh maith le scollíeanna lán-Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Ghæltacht. Tá oideachas lán-Ghaeilge ar fail ag leibheal na náisiúnaí, na bunscoile agus na hiar-bhunscoile. Tá roinnt cursair lán-Ghaeilge ar fail ag an trú leibheal freisin. Is éidílm le scollíeanna tumentídeachas in Éirinn ná ardchachaighdeán oideachais a chur ar fail, chomh maith le hardchachaighdeán sa chumas cumarsaíde a chothu. Tácaíonn an bunús laidir seo le paisistí a bhéith mar bhall de phobal agus líniora Gaeilge, agus tacáíonn sé le nuachainteoiriú na Gaeilge freisin (Ó Dubháir, 2018). Tacáíonn an tumentídeachas le paisistí gceannatar Ghæltachta, agus i gceannatar lasmuigh den Ghæltacht, a úsáideann an Ghælge mar theangeolaí bhaile, nó a úsáideann an Ghælge agus teanga éile sa bhaile.

Buntasti an Tumoideachais

Tá tabhacht nach beag ag baint leis an annáil seo mar tá go leor fianaise ann go bhfuil buntáist suntasacha ag baint leis an tumsídeachas. Tá sé rithabhaachtach na buntáist sin atá taighdebhunaithe a roinnt ar bhealach inrochtana leis na scoilteanna agus leis an earnáil oideachais go ginearálta, ionas go bhfeadfaí an téolaí a chur ar thusimhtheoir agus iad ag déanamh cinniú faoi oideachas a bpáistí. Is chuirge sin a forbairdach an acmhainn seo.

Gabhairim buiochais ó chroí leis an Dr Claire Dunne as a cuid drograisé agus dua leis an obair fhiorrhabhachtach seo agus leo siúd go leir a chuaigh i mbun taighde le breis is fiche bliain annas chun cur go suntasach leis an gcorpas taighde ar an tumsídeachas in Éirinn.

Ag deireadh na bliana 2023 lorgaíodh leirithe spéise ó institiúid oideachais agus ó thraigheoír chun scagadh agus inúchadh a dhéanamh ar an taighde go leir atá déanta ar an tumsídeachas i gcomhthéacs na hÉireann. Ba iomlán ar fail ar shuomh COGG: An Tumsídeachas ag an Mhúileibhéal in Éirinn: Leargáis ón Taighde Nasainnta, ar an Dr Claire Dunne a bronnadh an corrách don obair seo thar ceann institiúid Oideachais Marino. Tá an taighde don té ar mian leis / leí inúchadh iomlán a dhéanamh ar an taighde ar fad.

Níl aon insint ar an méid taighde a rinneadh ar ghnéithe éagsúla den tumsídeachas in Éirinn le breis is fiche bliain, céatadán suntasach de a bhlí maidinthe ag COGG. Foilsear an taighde go leir a mhaoiniún COGG ar shuomh na heagrachta. E sin raité, bheach sé deacair teacht ar tháití agus ar phromhthearachtaí an chorpais taighde sin go leir go héasca.

Ba mhaithe liom fáilte agus fiche a chur roimh fhóilsí an Leabharán seo ar buntáistí iomadúla an tumsídeachais. Leagtar amach anseo na buntáistí a bhaineanann leis an tumsídeachas ar bhealach inleite sorthuigthe. Tá suí agam go mbéidh príomhoidil, multiúeoir agus cleachtóir uile in earnáil an oideachais in ann an Leabharán seo a úsáid mar uirlis chumarsaide chun buntáistí an tumsídeachais a roinnt le thusimhtheoir.

# An Tumidéachas: Na Buntáistí - Tacaíocht ón Taighde



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