**St. Joseph’s Specialist School,**

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**Chairperson of the Board of Management: Audrey Pidgeon**

**Principal: Sarah McGinley**

**Gaeilge (Irish Language) Policy**

**November 2019**

This policy supports our language policy; it came about in accordance with circular 52/2019 and under the advice of the Professional Development service for teachers PDST during training day in new primary language curriculum (18-11-2019)

“In the case of pupils in special schools and in special classes in mainstream schools, and in recognising the authority devolved to the management authorities in decision making concerning the Irish language learning needs of the pupils concerned, a formal application for a Certificate of Exemption is not required. Pupils in special schools and in special classes in mainstream schools will therefore be exempt without holding a Certificate of Exemption. In line with the Department’s policy above however, **schools are expected and encouraged to provide all pupils, to the greatest extent possible and in a meaningful way, with opportunities to participate in Irish language and cultural activities at a level appropriate to their learning needs.**” Circular p5 52/2029

St Josephs School will focus on developing pupil’s skills across the following areas:

1. Rannta (poems)
2. Amhrán (songs)
3. Daily language and common words

In order to provide all pupils, “to the greatest extent possible and in a meaningful way, with opportunities to participate in Irish language and cultural activities at a level appropriate to their learning needs” at St Josephs School we will select a group of pupils with existing skills in Gaeilge and work on developing these in small group lessons which will take place every Tuesday at 930am with the teacher of Senior 2 class. (2019-2020 specific).

These lessons will last for 10-20 minutes and take the form of reciting, singing and discussion in an immersion environment supported by Lámh and PECS as appropriate.

This group will perform a selection of poems, songs or daily words at a termly assembly during the afternoon in the last week of term and will perform at the Christmas concert where appropriate. All pupils will be invited to attend.

**Review and Ratification**

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents’ Association and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this policy can be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management as required.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on November 2020.

**Signed ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Chairperson, Board of Management Principal**

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