

Pobalscoil Iosolde School Policy for International Students

September 2021

Pobalscoil Iosolde policy for international students is based on the Education Act 1998 respecting the “diversity of values , beliefs, languages and traditions in Irish society.” We are also mindful of the Equal Status Act ,2000 and the Education Welfare Act, 2000 which together provide an education specific legal basis for anti-racism and inclusionary policies.

Our school aims

- To provide a safe learning environment for students
- To include all students in all aspects of school life
- To ensure representation of students in decision making groups such as the Student Council
- To respect and affirm the diverse student backgrounds,cultures and languages
- To ensure that all students achieve their potential regardless of nationality, race or language

Pobalscoil Iosolde caters equally for all students. We recognise that a high standard of English is critical for accessing the curriculum and achieving success in examinations.This involves the identification of those students in need of language support and prioritising those with little English and students taking State examinations in Junior and Leaving Certificate years.Assessments are made by using the DES assessment material.Provision of support is determined by the level of resources made available by the Department of Education and Skills.

Pobalscoil Iosolde’s aims for EAL learners

- To provide essential information to enable all new EAL students transfer to their new school and surroundings quickly and easily
- to identify individual language skills by use of assessments on entry to school and annually thereafter
- to ensure all mainstream teachers are aware of each individual’s English language ability

- to promote differentiation of the curriculum in order to engage all EAL students successfully into each subject area
- to offer individual students supports through the provision of team teaching and withdrawal classes where necessary
- to encourage the listening, speaking, reading and writing aspects of English language acquisition throughout the school
- to further the students' language acquisition skills
- to recognise their home language as an integral part of their individual learning
- to actively encourage parental involvement in their own child's development through participation and attendance at school meetings and activities
- to encourage inclusive teaching methods throughout the school

To date Pobalscoil Iosolde

- arranges annual Intercultural Weeks where the languages, cultures and different experiences of students are shared and celebrated
- promotes diversity in a positive and educational light enriching school life as a whole
- involves cross curricular subjects such as Art, Home Economics, Geography and English in intercultural activities
- is aware of the importance of the home language in learning and seeks opportunities to display all the languages of the students
- has developed an intercultural notice board affirming the diverse student background
- co-operates with South Dublin County Council initiatives, taking part in competitions and organized events such as "show the red card to racism" afternoon
- hosts students from Germany as part of the Erasmus programme
- is in contact with organisations such as ELSTA which is to the forefront in promoting excellence in EAL provision and the Immigration Council of Ireland which assists in training in interculturalism

We are aware of the necessity for on-going teacher training in inclusive teaching methods and have made provision for this at teacher staff meetings.

