



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
**Government of Ireland**

**Content and Language Integrated Learning  
(CLIL)**

**Irish Pilot Project 2022/23**

**Invitation for English-medium Early Learning and Care Settings to participate in  
Year 2 of the pilot project**

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Why is a content and language integrated learning approach being considered?

The education-related objectives set out in the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish language 2010-2030* and the associated *Action Plan 2018-2022* include the commitment of the Department of Education and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to explore a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach to implementing partial immersion in Irish<sup>1</sup> in schools and Early Learning and Care settings.

## 1.2 What is CLIL?

A CLIL approach provides for the delivery of aspects of the curriculum through a language that is not the medium of communication or instruction in the setting or school. While CLIL is not the same as immersion, it offers flexibility and opportunities for a more focused approach to target language (Irish in this instance) learning and teaching in English-medium Early Learning and Care settings and schools by

- increasing the exposure of learners to Irish by extending the use of Irish as a medium of communication and instruction in real contexts beyond discrete Irish language lessons
- supporting the development of learners' higher order cognitive and creative competences
- exploiting and integrating opportunities for language acquisition and content learning in other curricular areas
- expanding the pedagogical repertoire of early-years educators, primary teachers and teachers of Irish and other subjects
- extending and promoting the benefits of bilingualism beyond the Irish-medium sector.

## 1.3 Why now?

Significant developments have taken place in Irish education and in Irish language curricular provision at early years, primary and post-primary level since the publication of the Government's *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*.

- For the first time, separate Irish language specifications were published in 2016 for Junior Cycle Irish in Irish-medium and in English-medium post-primary schools.
- The *Primary Language Curriculum (2019)* promotes an integrated approach to the learning of English and Irish.
- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is committed to strengthening supports for Irish-medium provision of early learning and care,

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<sup>1</sup> A parallel CLIL project is being rolled out in Foreign Languages as set out in *Languages Connect, Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026*.

including a number of commitments in the Action Plan 2018-2022 under the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030

#### **1.4 What are the benefits of CLIL?**

The benefits to children include:

- Improvements in their motivation and knowledge in both the Irish language and the subject
- Improvements in their cognitive skills such as higher-order and critical thinking
- Developing their cultural awareness and knowledge
- Developing their learning and communication strategies.

The benefits for educators include:

- Increased professional development opportunities where training will increase their understanding of the CLIL approach, the pedagogical principles underpinning CLIL, along with other language teaching pedagogies
- Opportunities for increased levels of collaboration with colleagues from within their own Early Learning and Care setting or school, as well as early years educators and teachers from other Early Learning and Care settings and schools.
- Higher motivation levels around learning Irish amongst learners in their Early Learning and Care settings and classrooms.

## **2. Scope of the Irish CLIL project**

### **2.1 What is the aim of this CLIL Project?**

The aim of this CLIL project is to improve learner competence, confidence and disposition to Irish in English-medium Early Learning and Care settings and in primary and post-primary schools.

Useful information and sample resources are available on the JCT website at: [https://www.jct.ie/content\\_and\\_language\\_integrated\\_learning\\_\(CLIL\)/home](https://www.jct.ie/content_and_language_integrated_learning_(CLIL)/home)

### **2.2 What is the scope of the CLIL Project?**

This is a 3 year project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the health advice current at the time it was necessary to postpone the in-setting/school components of Year 1 until the 2021/22 academic year.

Year 1 (The Pilot) was a developmental phase in which a small number of English-medium schools and Early Learning and Care settings worked with the Department of Education's project team to identify and develop resources and supports. In Year 2 and Year 3, it is aimed to increase incrementally the number of Early Learning and Care settings and schools participating. It is now proposed to offer the opportunity to participate in the project to a greater number of Early Learning and Care settings.

A steering group has been established to manage the CLIL project comprising representatives of the Department of Education, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta

& Gaelscolaíochta (COGG), the Post Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), Conradh na Gaeilge, DCU, Munster Technological University (MTU), UL and NUI Maynooth.

### **2.3 What will form the focus of children’s learning through Irish in Early Learning and Care settings?**

Aspects of Aistear (the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework) theme “Communicating” will form the focus of the CLIL approach to teaching and learning in Early Learning and Care settings in Years 1 to 3 of the project. Early Learning and Care settings will focus in particular on hosting ‘Am Lóin’ (lunchtime) through Irish and developing children’s confidence and competence in using Irish during lunchtime activities.

### **2.4 How will early years educators be supported?**

Mentoring in the CLIL approach will be provided by Better Start Early Years Specialists to early years educators participating in the project. This will be informed by research and third level experts working in the fields of linguistics and Early Years education.

In Year 1, the participating early years educators helped to identify and develop the training and the kind of supports which would be of greatest benefit to participants (e.g. games, songs, posters).

Better Start Early Years Specialists have developed a comprehensive range of resources to support early years educators and children engage in lunchtime activities through Irish. Better Start Early Years Specialists will provide ongoing support to participating Early Learning and Care settings in implementing ‘Am Lóin’ through Irish.

DCEDIY is committed to supporting early years educators’ participation in Irish language CPD opportunities, as relevant. Further supports will be made available, in line with commitments in Nurturing Skills.

### **2.5 When will Early Learning and Care settings introduce children to lunchtime activities through Irish?**

For Early Learning and Care settings participating in project for the first time in 2022/23, and guided by Better Start Early Years Specialists, lunchtime activities (‘An Lóin’) through Irish over an 8 week period will commence in February 2023. Once participation in the project is confirmed, Better Start will contact Early Learning and Care settings with regard to mentoring arrangements.

Early Learning and Care Settings continuing with the project from 2021/22, will commence implementation in September 2022 and will have the option to extend the timeframe for children’s participation in lunchtime activities through Irish throughout the year.

### **2.6 How will the project be evaluated?**

Regular evaluation by the early years educators will be required, at the start, throughout and at the end of the year. Indicator / evaluation resources have been developed and will be provided to the early years educators for this purpose. Feedback from early years educators and parents/guardians will be used to inform the further development of the project.

### 3. How to Apply

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, Department of Education and Better Start are now seeking Expressions of Interest from Early Learning and Care settings to participate in this exciting and innovative project for 2022/23.

Early Learning and Care settings not selected this year may be included in Year 3 of the project.

Interested Early Learning and Care settings should complete the Application Form no later than close of business on **Friday, 23 September 2022**.

Early Learning and Care settings selected to participate for the first time in 2022/23 will be notified by the Better Start on or before **Friday, 30 September**.

**The application form is available at <https://forms.office.com/r/qh1F26f1gv> please complete by close of business on **Friday, 23 September 2022****



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

**Foghlaim Chomhtháite Ábhar agus Teanga (FCÁT)**

**Tionscadal Píolótach don Ghaeilge 2022/2023**

**Cuireadh do Shuíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a fheidhmíonn trí mheán Bhéarla chun páirt a ghlacadh i mBliain 2 den tionscadal píolótach**

**12ú Meán Fómhair 2022**

# Clár

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# 1. Réamhrá

## 1.1. Cén fáth go bhfuil cur chuige comhtháite ábhair agus teanga á phlé?

I measc na gcuspóirí i réimse an oideachais atá leagtha síos sa *Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030*, agus sa *Plean Gníomhaíochta 2018-2022* atá bainteach léi, tá tiomantas An Roinn Oideachas maidir le cur chuige Foghlaim Chomhtháite Ábhar agus Teanga (FCÁT) a fhiosrú mar thaca don pháirt-tumoideachas sa Ghaeilge<sup>2</sup> a chur i bhfeidhm i scoileanna agus i suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige.

## 1.2 Céard é FCÁT?

Éascaíonn cur chuige FCÁT soláthar gnéithe den churaclam i dteanga nach teanga teagaisc na scoile í. Cé nach ionann FCÁT agus an tumoideachas, cuireann sé solúbthacht agus deiseanna ar fáil le cur chuige atá níos dírithe ar fhoghlaim agus ar theagasc teanga a aimsiú (an Ghaeilge sa chás seo) i scoileanna agus i suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige ina bhfuil an Béarla mar mheán trí:

- theagmháil na bhfoghlaimoirí leis an nGaeilge a mhéadú trí úsáid na Gaeilge a leathnú mar mheán cumarsáide agus teagaisc i bhfíor-chomhthéacsanna taobh amuigh de cheachtanna Gaeilge;
- thacú le forbairt inniúlachtaí ardoird cognaíocha agus cruthaitheacha na bhfoghlaimoirí;
- leas a bhaint as agus imeascadh a dhéanamh maidir deiseanna teanga a shealbhú agus ábhar a fhoghlaim in achair eile curaclaim;
- stór oideolaíocha oideoirí luathbhlianta, mhúinteoirí bunscoile agus mhúinteoirí na Gaeilge agus ábhair eile a mhéadú;
- buntáistí an dátheangachais taobh amuigh d'earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta a leathnú agus cur chun cinn.

## 1.3 Cén fáth an t-am i láthair?

Tá forbairtí suntasacha tar éis tarlú san oideachas in Éirinn agus i soláthar curaclaim na Gaeilge san earnáil Luathfhoghlama agus Cúraim, sna bunscoileanna agus sna hiar-bhunscoileanna ó fhoilsiú *Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030* an Rialtais.

- Don chéad uair, foilsíodh sonraíochtaí faoi leith do Ghaeilge na Sraithe Sóisearaí in iarbhunscoileanna a fheidhmíonn trí mheán na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla in 2016.
- Cuireann *Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile* (2019) cur chuige comhtháite chun cinn i bhfoghlaim an Bhéarla agus na Gaeilge.

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<sup>2</sup> Tá tionscadal FCÁT comhthreomhar ar bun i réimse na dTeangacha lasachta mar atá leagtha amach in *Déanann Teangacha Nasc: Straitéis do Theangacha lasachta san Oideachas in Éirinn 2017-2026*.

- Tá An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige tiomanta chuig tacaíochtaí a láidriú do shuíomhanna lán-Ghaeilge um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige le roinnt gealltanais san áireamh sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta 2018-2022 faoin Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030.

#### 1.4 Cad iad buntáistí an Tionscadail FCÁT?

I measc na mbuntáistí do pháistí tá:

- Feabhas ar spreagadh agus eolas sa Ghaeilge agus san ábhar araon
- Feabhas ar scileanna cognaíochta, ar nós smaointeoireacht ardoird agus criticiúil
- Forbairt ar a bhfeasacht agus eolas cultúrtha
- Forbairt ar a straitéisí teanga agus cumarsáide.

I measc na mbuntáistí d'oidoírí tá:

- Méadú ar dheiseanna d'fhorbairt ghairmiúil ina gcuirfidh an oiliúint lena dtuiscint ar an gcur chuige FCÁT, na príonsabail oideolaíochta atá mar bhunús le FCÁT, chomh maith le hoideolaíochtaí eile teagasc teanga
- Deiseanna le comhoibriú le comhghleacaithe laistigh dá suíomh nó dá scoil féin a mhéadú, chomh maith hoideoírí luathbhlianta agus múinteoirí ó shuíomhanna agus scoileanna eile
- Leibhéil spreagtha ardaithe maidir le foghlaim na Gaeilge i measc foghlaimeoirí ina gcuid suíomhanna agus ranganna.

## 2. Raon an Tionscadail FCÁT (Gaeilge)

### 2.1 Cad í aidhm an Tionscadail FCÁT?

Is í aidhm an tionscadail FCÁT ná cumas, muinín agus meon an fhoghlaimeora i leith na Gaeilge a fheabhsú i suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige agus i mbunscoileanna agus in iar-bhunscoileanna a fheidhmíonn trí Bhéarla.

Tá fáil ar eolas úsáideach agus samplaí d'acmhainní ar shuíomh gréasáin SSM ag:

[https://www.jct.ie/leanganaeilge/content\\_and\\_language\\_integrated\\_learning\\_\(CLIL\)/home](https://www.jct.ie/leanganaeilge/content_and_language_integrated_learning_(CLIL)/home)

### 2.2 Cad é raon an Tionscadail FCÁT?

Is tionscadal 3 bliana é seo. De bharr na paindéime COVID-19 agus na comhairle sláinte a bhí i bhfeidhm ag an am, b'éigean an ghné ar an suíomh/scoile de Bhliain 1 an tionscadail a chur siar go dtí an bhliain acadúil 2021/22.

Tréimhse forbarthach a bhí i mBliain 1 (An Píolót). D'oibrigh líon beag scoileanna agus suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a fheidhmíonn trí Bhéarla le foireann tionscadail na Roinne chun na hacmhainní agus na tacaíochtaí a bhfuil gá leo do leathnú an chur chuige chuig scoileanna agus suíomhanna eile, de réir a chéile, i mBliain 2 agus i mBliain 3 a aithint agus a fhorbairt. Tá sé mar aidhm cur le líon na suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige atá páirteach, de réir

a chéile, i mBliain 2 agus i mBliain 3 den tionscadal. De réir sin, tá sé i gceist anois cur le líon na suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige atá páirteach.

Bunaíodh grúpa stiúrtha leis an Tionscadal FCÁT a bhainistiú, a chuimsíonn ionadaithe ón Roinn Oideachais, An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige (RLCMLÓ), An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta (CNCM), An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta (COGG), Teangacha Iar-bhunscoile Éire, Conradh na Gaeilge, OCBÁC, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan, Ollscoil Luimnigh agus Ollscoil na hÉireann Mhá Nuad.

### **2.3 Cad a bheidh mar fhócas d'fhoghlaim na bpáistí trí Ghaeilge i suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige**

Beidh gnéithe den téama “Cumarsáid” in *Aistear: Creat Churaclam na Luath-Óige* mar fhócas don chur chuige FCÁT sa teagasc agus san fhoghlaim i suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige i mBlianta 1-3 den tionscadal. Díreoidh suíomhanna go speisialta ar ‘Am Lóin’ a reáchtáil trí Ghaeilge agus ar mhúinín agus ar chumas na bpáistí chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid le linn gníomhaíochtaí am lóin a fhorbairt.

### **2.4 Conas a thacófar le hoideoirí luathbhlianta?**

Cuirfidh Speisialtóirí Luathbhlianta Better Start meantóireacht ar fáil do na hoideoirí luathbhlianta a bheidh páirteach sa tionscadal. Beidh taighde agus comhairle ó shaineolaithe tríú leibhéal atá ag obair i réimse na teangeolaíochta agus an oideachais Luathfhoghlama agus Cúraim mar bhonn eolais don tacaíocht.

I mBliain 1, chabhraigh oideoirí a bhí páirteach an cineál oiliúna agus na hacmhainní is mó a rachadh chun leasa rannpháirtithe a aithint agus a fhorbairt (m.sh. cluichí, amhráin, póstaer).

Tá réimse cuimsitheach d’acmhainní forbartha ag Speisialtóirí Luathbhlianta Better Start chun tacú le hoideoirí luathbhlianta agus le páistí chun dul i ngleic le gníomhaíochtaí am lóin trí Ghaeilge. Cuirfidh Speisialtóirí Luathbhlianta Better Start tacaíocht leanúnach ar fáil do na suíomhanna a bheidh páirteach chun ‘Am Lóin’ a chur i bhfeidhm trí Ghaeilge.

Tá RLCMLÓ tiomanta do thacaíocht a chur ar fáil d’oideoirí a bheidh páirteach maidir lena rannpháirtíocht i ndeiseanna forbartha gairmiúla leanúnaí (FGL) sa Ghaeilge, mar is cuí. Cuirfear tacaíochtaí breise ar fáil, maidir leis na gealltanais i Cothú Scileanna

### **2.5 Cathain a thosóidh suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige ar ghníomhaíochtaí am lóin a reáchtáil trí Ghaeilge?**

I gcás suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a bheidh páirteach sa tionscadal den chéad uair in 2022/23, agus le treoir ó Speisialtóirí Luathbhlianta Better Start, tosóidh siad ar ghníomhaíochtaí ‘Am Lóin’ a chur i bhfeidhm trí Ghaeilge thar thréimhse 8 seachtaine i mí Feabhra 2023. Nuair a dheimhnítear rannpháirtíocht sa tionscadal, déanfaidh Better Start teagmháil le suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige maidir le socruithe meantóireachta.

Tosóidh suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige atá ag leanúint lena rannpháirtíocht sa tionscadal ó 2021/22 ar ghníomhaíochtaí a reáchtáil trí Ghaeilge ó mhí Mheán Fómhair 2022 ar aghaidh. Beidh an rogha acu cur leis an tréimhse ina mbeidh na páistí páirteach in imeachtaí am lóin trí Ghaeilge le linn na bliana.

## 2.6 Conas a dhéanfar meastóireacht ar an tionscadal?

Beidh gá le meastóireacht rialta ag oideoirí luathbhlianta, ag an tús, i rith an tionscadail agus ag deireadh na bliana. Tá acmhainní táscaire/meastóireachta forbartha agus cuirfear ar fáil iad d'oideoirí luathbhlianta chun na críche sin. Ina theannta sin, úsáidfear aiseolas ó oideoirí luathbhlianta agus ó thuismitheoirí/chaomhnóirí mar bhonn eolais d'fhorbairt an tionscadail.

## 3. An dóigh le hiarratas a dhéanamh

Tá an Roinn Leanai, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige (RLCMLÓ), An Roinn Oideachas agus Better Start anois ag lorg Léirithe Spéise ó shuíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a fheidhmíonn trí mheán an Bhéarla chun páirt a ghlacadh sa tionscadal spreagúil agus nuálach seo don scoilbhliain 2022/23.

Is féidir go gcuirfear suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige ná roghnófar i mbliana san áireamh i mBliain 3 den tionscadal.

Ba cheart do shuíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige ar suim leo a bheith páirteach sa tionscadal Foirm Iarratais a chomhlánú roimh am scoir gnó ar an **Aoine, 23 Meán Fómhair 2022**.  
Aoine, 23 Meán Fómhair 2022.

Dearbhóidh an Roinn na suíomhanna um Fhoghlaim agus Cúram na Luath-Óige a roghnófar le bheith páirteach ar nó roimh **An Aoine, 30 Meán Fómhair 2022**.

Tá an fhoirm iarratais ar fáil ag <https://forms.office.com/r/qh1F26f1gv> , líon isteach é faoi am scoir gnó ar **23 Meán Fómhair 2022**.