

Policy Identifier: Required Number of Children in a Class for the Purposes of School Placement

Policy Title:	Required Number of Children in a Class for the Purposes of School Placement
Description:	This policy ensures students are teaching in classes with a sufficient number of pupils to allow them to implement the strategies they are taught in curriculum lectures, in line with the grade descriptors for their assessed placement period.
Author (Position):	Director of School Placement
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Required Number of Children in a Class for the Purposes of School Placement

1. Context

School placement is a mandatory component of the Bachelor in Education (Primary) Baitsiléir san Oideachas Trí Mheán na Gaeilge (Bunmhúinteoireacht), Professional Master of Education (Primary) and Máistreacht Ghairmiúil san Oideachas (MGO) (Bunmhúinteoireacht)- Conair lán- Ghaeilge (Bunmhúinteoireacht) (MGO) courses. The [Teaching Council](#) (2017) requires students to spend 30 weeks on school placement on the BEd (Primary) and BOid (Bunmhúinteoireacht) courses and 24 weeks on the PME (Primary) and MGO (Bunmhúinteoireacht) course.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are teaching in classes with a sufficient number of pupils to allow them to implement the strategies they are taught in curriculum lectures, in line with the grade descriptors for their assessed placement period.

3. Benefits

According to The [Teaching Council](#) (2021) school placement should provide opportunities for student teachers to:

- i. Integrate theory and practice;
- ii. observe teachers teaching and develop their knowledge, skills, competences and professional dispositions
- iii. Plan for, and undertake, class teaching, learning and assessment using a wide range of strategies;
- iv. Develop classroom, organisational and behaviour management skills;
- v. Observe experienced teachers teaching and be involved in a wide range of school activities;
- vi. Reflect critically on their practice;
- vii. Receive and respond to feedback on their practice;
- viii. Seek and receive advice and guidance in a supportive environment.
- ix. engage in reflective practice
- x. engage in collaborative professional practice
- xi. engage in enquiry-based learning

4. Scope

This procedure applies to students on the Bachelor of Education (Primary), Baitsiléir san Oideachas Trí Mheán na Gaeilge (Bunmhúinteoireacht), Professional Master of Education (Primary) and Máistreacht

Ghairmiúil san Oideachas (MGO) (Bunmhúinteoireacht)- Conair lán- Ghaeilge (Bunmhúinteoireacht) courses undertaking school placement.

5. Principles

- 5.1. School placement is a mandatory and assessed component of the Bachelor in Education (Primary) Baitsiléir san Oideachas Trí Mheán na Gaeilge (Bunmhúinteoireacht), the Professional Master of Education (Primary) and Máistreacht Ghairmiúil san Oideachas (MGO) (Bunmhúinteoireacht)- Conair lán- Ghaeilge (Bunmhúinteoireacht) (MGO) courses.
- 5.2. Students are graded using Marino Institute of Education (MIE) and Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, approved grading rubrics.

6. Definitions

A glossary of definitions relating to school placement are provided by the [Teaching Council](#) (2021, pp 3-4)

7. Policy

- 7.1. Students are expected to source a class with a minimum of 15 pupils. An exception can be made in relation to this requirement in the following situations.
- i. A developing school;
 - ii. Geographic location;
 - iii. Falling numbers in the class;
 - iv. Multi-grade classroom
 - v. Schools designated as disadvantage (DEIS)
 - vi. Inclusive education settings
- 7.2. Permission to take a placement in a class with less than 15 pupils must be sought from the Director of School Placement
- 7.3. Decisions will be based on the criteria above and the student's profile on school placement, such as:
- i. Class size previously taught;
 - ii. Formative and summative feedback from previous placement;
 - iii. Assessment profile.

7.5 Where students are teaching a multigrade class, there is an expectation that the higher number of children should be in the class aligning with the school placement requirements for that placement period

8. Responsibility

The overall responsibility for this policy lies with the Director of School Placement

9. Related Documents

- 9.1. Teaching Council [Guidelines on School Placement](#) (2021)
- 9.2. The Teaching Council [Initial Teacher Education: Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers](#) (2017) [Procedures for the Professional Accreditation of Programmes of Initial Teacher Education \(2021\)](#) [Ceim Standards for Initial Teacher Education \(2020\)](#)
- 9.3. [Policy on Special Considerations for School Placement](#)
- 9.4. [Code of Practice for Students with Disabilities](#)
- 9.5. [Consent to Disclose and Share Disability Information](#)
- 9.6. [School Placement Attendance Policy](#)
- 9.7. [Allocation of Students for the Purposes of School Placement](#)