

Policy Identifier: Allocation of Students for the Purposes of School Placement

Policy Title:	Allocation of Students for the Purposes of School Placement
Description:	The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are assigned to schools in a fair and consistent manner across all year groups on the Bachelor in Education, Baitsiléir san Oideachas Trí Mheán na Gaeilge and Professional Master of Education courses
Author (Position):	Director of School Placement
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Approved By:	MIE Governing Body
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Date of Next Policy Review:	June 2027 (or as necessary)

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1 Context

School placement is a mandatory component of the Bachelor in Education (BEd) (Primary), Baitsiléir san Oideachas Trí Mheán na Gaeilge (BOid) (Bunmhúinteoireacht), Professional Master of Education (PME) and Máistreacht Ghairmiúil san Oideachas (MGO) (Bunmhúinteoireacht)-Conair lán- Ghaeilge (MGO) (Primary) 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 assigned to schools in a fair and consistent manner across all year groups on the BEd, BOid, PME and MGO courses.

3 Benefits

According to The [Teaching Council](#) (2017, p.13) school placement should provide opportunities for student teachers to:

- 3.1 Integrate theory and practice;
- 3.2 Plan for, and undertake, class teaching, learning and assessment using a wide range of strategies;
- 3.3 Develop classroom, organisational and behaviour management skills;
- 3.4 Observe experienced teachers teaching and be involved in a wide range of school activities;
- 3.5 Reflect critically on their practice;
- 3.6 Receive and respond to feedback on their practice;
- 3.7 Seek and receive advice and guidance in a supportive environment.

4 Scope

This procedure applies to students on the BEd (Primary), BOid (Bunmhúinteoireacht), PME (Primary) and MGO (Bunmhúinteoireacht) courses undertaking school placement.

5 Principles

- 5.1 School placement is a mandatory and assessed component of the BEd (Primary), (BOid) (Bunmhúinteoireacht), PME (primary) and MGO (Bunmhúinteoireacht) courses.
- 5.2 Students must undertake school placement in schools recognised by the Department of Education.

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- 5.3 Students must undertake school placement in classes corresponding to the content delivered in lecturers that year i.e. junior/middle/senior classes.
- 5.4 The Marino Institute of Education (MIE) school placement programme is in line with the recognised quality assurance standards for school placements, as per the teaching council [guidelines on school placement](#) (2021).
- 5.5 MIE is committed to ensuring students have the opportunity to experience high quality placements in a variety of settings (urban/rural/DEIS/ Gaelscoileanna/scoileanna Gaeltachta/special educational needs/small schools/alternate education providers) over the course of their initial teacher education programme.
- 5.6 The school placement team works with schools, and maintains regular communication with schools, to ensure that undue burden is not placed on schools.
- 5.7 The MIE school placement programme is structured so that, when on placement, students develop pedagogical content and skills, nurture their professional dispositions, become reflective practitioners and hone their professional identity.

6 Definitions

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

7 Procedure

BEd2, BOid2, PME1, MGO1 Spring, ASP/ArdSS and Repeat/Deferred School Placement

- 7.1 BEd2, BOid2, PME1, MGO1 spring, ASP/ArdSS and repeat/deferred school placements are sourced by the student in accordance with school placement requirements for that year group.
- 7.2 When a student is unable to source a school they will be required to send a complete list of the schools they have contacted to the school placement team. On receiving this list the school placement team may advise the student to widen their search area, suggest particular schools to contact or, in exceptional cases, place the student in a school.

BEd1, BOid1, BEd3, BOid3, PME1/MGO1 Autumn

- 7.3 Normally, students are placed by the school placement team for these placements.
- 7.4 The school placement team begins sourcing classes in May/June of the previous academic year and placements are confirmed to schools in semester one of the academic year.
- 7.5 Students are assigned according to the term address provided to the school placement team at the beginning of September. If a term address is not provided, students will be assigned to a school using MIE as their term address.
- 7.6 BEd1/BOid1 students are placed in pairs in classes from 2nd to 4th in the greater Dublin area. BEd3/BOid3 students are placed in infant classes in the greater Dublin area. PME1/MGO1 students (Autumn placement) are placed in classes from 3rd to 6th in schools in the greater Dublin area
- 7.7 As far as possible, BEd/BOid 1 students will be initially paired with another student. However, this may not always be possible, or circumstances may change, and a student may be asked to work without a partner on school placement.
- 7.8 If there is an uneven number of students, students can volunteer to do Spring Placement on their own. A student will be selected at random if more than one student volunteers.
- 7.9 Students may request to be placed nearer their home, in accordance with the Special Considerations Policy (available on Moodle).

8 Responsibility

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

9 Related Documents

- 9.1 The Teaching Council [Guidelines on School Placement](#) (2013)
- 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](#)

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- 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 [Required Number of Children in a Class for the Purposes of School Placement](#)