

# Coláiste Éamonn Rís

## Foreign Languages Policy

### **Rationale:**

1. Department of Education and Skills encouraged the school to develop a written policy on the promotion of foreign languages.
2. Involving and encouraging all members of the school community in developing, formulating and reviewing this policy on diversifying and supporting the teaching of foreign languages promotes partnership, ownership and implementation of a living policy.

**Objective:** We aspire to have increasing numbers of First Year students taking up a foreign language in the school and to increase the number of those taking a foreign language as a Leaving Certificate subject.

The school provides the following information by means of a brochure and Powerpoint presentation to incoming First Year parents at the Subject Options for First Year Night and Fifth Year Options Night. Use will also be made of 'More Languages More Options', a series of seven video clips for post-primary students, their parents and school personnel developed as part of a DES initiative to support the teaching of foreign languages in schools. These clips will be made available on the school website [www.wexfordscbs.ie](http://www.wexfordscbs.ie) or can be accessed on [www.languagesinitiative.ie](http://www.languagesinitiative.ie). The school Guidance Counsellor is also available for one to one consultations with students and parents to discuss subject options and will advise of the importance and relevance of taking a foreign language at First and Fifth Year.

### A. First Year/Junior Cycle

#### **French/ Le francais:**

Café, restaurant, baguette, chateau, cul-de-sac, rendezvous..... You already know and use many French words, so why not take the next step and study it in Colaiste Eamonn Ris! As well as learning to speak and write the language, you will discover a lot about the French way of life; food, pastimes, sport, shopping, school and lots more.

On leaving school, knowing French will offer you opportunities to work in other countries. French is an official language in 28 countries and it is the official working language of the U.N., N.A.T.O., and many other international organisations. Learning a new language is an exciting and rewarding experience, so give it a go and say 'Bonjour' to French. French can also be studied for the Leaving Certificate.

## **German / Deutsch:**

German is the most widely spoken language in the EU apart from English. It is the official language of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, and is considered to be the language of Science, Technology, Business and Law. It is easy to speak and you will very quickly come across words that look and sound very familiar, such as “Haus, Computer, Kindergarten, Camping etc.” Apart from being extremely useful, the language is also fun. “Willkommen zu Deutsch!” German can also be studied as a Leaving Certificate subject.

### **B. Transition Year**

All T.Y. are to be given an opportunity to study a continental language during Transition Year. The aim is to build on their competency level from Junior Certificate.

## **Chinese**

The school offers Chinese Language and Culture as part of the Transition Year programme. The syllabus presented has been drawn up by the NCCA in collaboration with the Confucius Institute in University College Dublin. Each T.Y. class has one period a week. An educational trip to China is organised on an annual basis.

### **C. Fifth Year**

## **Continental Languages (French/German)<sup>1</sup>:**

Let's start by clearing up a common misconception. You do not need a foreign language for all 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses/studies. The National University of Ireland which encompasses UCD, UCC, NUIG and NUIM, require **only** a pass on an ordinary level paper for a lot of their humanities and business courses i.e. Arts, Journalism, Business courses, language courses etc.

There are however courses in the above 4 Universities that can be undertaken without having studied a 3<sup>rd</sup> language and these include all Nursing courses, most Engineering courses and most Science courses.

You also need a 3<sup>rd</sup> language to become a cadet in the Army, Navy or Air Corps. However those students interested in becoming general recruits do not require a 3<sup>rd</sup> language.

There is no specific language requirement for the Gardai. They require English and another language. Therefore Irish is accepted by them.

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<sup>1</sup> Information regarding language requirements can also be found in the same section on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

**NB:** Students who have language exemptions i.e. due to Dyslexia or other learning difficulties/health issues are also exempt from this requirement at 3<sup>rd</sup> level and in the Defence forces.

\* TCD accepts Irish as being a 3<sup>rd</sup> language.

\* DCU and UL, as well as the Institutes of Technology **only** require a 3<sup>rd</sup> language if you are pursuing a course that involves the study of that language.

There are currently 156 courses in the CAO system that definitely require a 3<sup>rd</sup> language for entry in 2012. There are a further 3 courses which may require a 3<sup>rd</sup> language. The following is a list of some of the popular courses where a 3<sup>rd</sup> language is definitely required:

- Accounting (UCC & NUIM)
- Architecture (UCD)
- Arts (NUIG, NUIM, UCC, UCD)
- Business and Accounting/Management (NUIM)
- Business and Law (UCD)
- Commerce (UCD, UCC, NUIG)
- Dentistry (UCC)
- English (NUIM, UCC)
- Finance (UCC, NUIM)
- History (NUIM, UCD)
- Law (UCD, UCC, NUIG, NUIM)
- Medicine (NUIG, UCC, UCD, RCSI)
- Music (UCD, UCC, NUIM)
- Occupational Therapy (UCC, NUIG)
- Physiotherapy (RCSI, UCD)
- Pharmacy (RCSI, UCC)
- Psychology (UCD, NUIM, UCC)
- Radiography (UCD)
- Social Science (UCC, UCD, NUIM)
- Sports and Exercise Management (UCD)
- Sports Studies and PE (UCC)
- Veterinary Medicine (UCD)

\* Levels and grades required for each of these courses vary. It is vital to check each course in each college specifically. This list is not exhaustive and only provides the main examples of where a 3<sup>rd</sup> language is needed as an entry requirement.

## French

French as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the French language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and

national history to provide a context for communication. It is the language of Diplomatic Circles and high finance today. It is one of the main working languages of the UN and the EU. On the leisure front, France is one of our nearest holiday destinations and is visited by thousands of Irish people annually. French is also a major language and is widely spoken in Canada, which currently has a very strong economy and therefore many job opportunities.

The new LC syllabus is interesting and stimulating, and enables pupils to develop a high competency in the language by fostering four language skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening.

French provides students with the grammatical workings of the language, which will assist them in further study whether for academic, business or leisure purposes. It offers insights into the culture and civilization of France and encourages an openness of mind to the customs and culture of other people.

Assessment: At both higher and ordinary level, the exam is made up of the same components, with different mark allocations as follows:

Higher Level:

Speaking (Oral exam) – 25%  
Listening (Aural exam) – 20%  
Reading Comprehension – 30%  
Writing – 25%

Ordinary Level:

Speaking (Oral exam) – 20%  
Listening (Aural exam) – 25%  
Reading Comprehension – 40%  
Writing – 15%

French is required for the following 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses:

This has been outlined under continental languages earlier in the booklet.

French is useful for careers in:

Tourism, the Airline industry, Hotel and Catering, Army cadets, Teaching, Speech therapy, Law, Economics, Finance, Business, Science, Politics and many more.

## German

German as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. German is one of the world's major languages and is the most widely-spoken first language in the European Union. German is the third-most taught foreign language in the English-speaking world, after French and Spanish. It is very useful for careers in Business, Finance and Economics and German companies manufacture some of the highest quality products available anywhere in the world.

German is the main language of about 90– 98 million people in Europe (as of 2004), or 13.3% of all Europeans, being the second most spoken native language in Europe after Russian, above French (66.5 million speakers in 2004) and English (64.2 million speakers in 2004). It is therefore the most spoken first language in the EU. It is the second most known foreign language in the EU. It is one of the official languages of the European Union, and one of the three working languages of the European Commission, along with English and French. Thirty-two percent of citizens of the EU-15 countries say they can converse in German (either as a mother tongue or as a second or foreign language). This is assisted by the widespread availability of German TV by cable or satellite.

Assessment is the same as for French (see above)

German is required for the following 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses:

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German is useful for careers in:

Tourism, the Airline industry, Hotel and Catering, Army Cadets, Teaching, Speech Therapy, Law, Economics, Finance, Business, Science, Politics and many more.

### **Foreign Exchanges with other Schools:**

The school will endeavour to set up a foreign exchange with a school in France and a school in Germany to provide opportunities for our students to experience the language and culture of these countries.

This policy was formally approved by the Board of Management on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

This policy will be subject to review in September 2017.