



CASTLETROY COLLEGE



Modern Foreign Language Exemption Policy

Our mission in Castletroy College is the holistic education of the individual, enabling students to become responsible, caring members of society as well as encouraging them to reach their full potential.

We endeavour to nurture and maintain a school community, which involves the partnership of staff, students, parents, trustees, and the local community. In the pursuit of this ideal we provide a broad and balanced range of curricular and extra curricular experiences for all students.

Castletroy College provides a broadly based curriculum for all pupils of the Community, allowing each pupil to attain the highest level of academic and skill-based attainment consonant with their interests, abilities, and talents.

All students are required to study a modern foreign language as a core subject at both Junior and Senior Cycle. The school recognises that in exceptional circumstances and for limited and specific reasons an exemption from the study of a modern foreign language may be considered. This policy seeks to set out the procedures and parameters regarding such an exemption.

It should be noted that the decision to exempt a student from the study of a modern foreign language may have significant implications for their future learning and potential employment opportunities. Please be advised that the granting of an exemption from the study of a modern foreign language does not guarantee the granting of an exemption for the requirement to present a modern language for basic entry (matriculation) requirements at higher education. Students and parents/guardians should be aware that entrance requirements to higher education are subject to change. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians and students to be informed of such changes and requirements.

Exempting a student from the study of a modern foreign language will be considered only in exceptional circumstances as set out in this policy. The decision to grant an exemption from the study of a modern foreign language is made by the Principal. The Principal may consult with parents/guardians, class teachers, special education teachers, professional reports or others as the Principal deems appropriate to support them in the decision making process.

In order to qualify for an exemption from a modern foreign language a student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet criteria for an exemption from the study of Irish and have been granted such an exemption.
- Presents with significant literacy difficulties that are persistent and evident despite having had access to a differentiated approach to language and literacy learning in all subjects/across the curriculum and over time
- At the time of the application for exemption presents with a standardised score on a discrete test in either Word Reading, Reading Comprehension or Spelling at/below the 10th percentile.

- The students' parents/guardians of the student (or the student themselves if over 18 years) have made a written request for exemption from the study of a modern foreign language.

Alternatively in order to qualify for an exemption from a modern foreign language a student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be in possession of a relevant report which provides evidence of the students needs and confirms that those needs constitute complex/severe educational needs which arise from a named diagnosis relating to the student and which makes a recommendation for such an exemption on the basis of their complex/severe educational needs arising from said diagnosis.
- The students' parents/guardians of the student (or the student themselves if over 18 years) have made a written request for exemption from the study of a modern foreign language.

'Relevant Report', as advised by the Department of Education and the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), means a written report, based on an assessment by a relevant Professional. The relevant professional may include an educational psychologist, psychologist, other relevant health professionals, HSE disability services or HSE multi-disciplinary team staff, in line with guidance issued by the NCSE on this point.

This policy was reviewed in the 2024/2025 academic year and will be reviewed again as required going forward, in line with changing information, guidelines, legislation and/or feedback from school stakeholders.

As part of the School Self-Evaluation Process, Castletroy College will monitor, review and evaluate this Policy on an ongoing basis to ensure legal compliance and the maintenance of best practices.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on: 11/02/2025

Signed: *Trevor Griffin*

Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 11/02/2025

Signed: *Brian O Donoghue*

Principal
Date: 11/02/2025