

Grá don Ghaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge le enérgia

Throughout Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia, the Irish Independent will be including a phrase guide to help you make the most of your cúpla focal.



Maura Derrane
Ambasadóir
Seachtain na Gaeilge
le Energia

Foclóir
Dictionary

Iriseoir:
Journalist

Craoltóir:
Broadcaster

Oileáin:
Islands

Cainteoir dúchais:
Native Speaker

Aitheanta:
Well known

Fíorbhródúil:
Very proud

Oileáin Árann:
Aran Islands

Féidearthachatí:
Possibilities

Ceantair Ghaeltachta:
Gaeltacht/
Irish speaking areas

South Dublin school is teaching pupils to speak Welsh

Katherine Donnelly

SEACHTAIN na Gaeilge kicked off yesterday, but one Irish school has gone a step further in celebrating our Celtic roots by launching a Welsh-language initiative for pupils.

The government in Cardiff is keen to increase the number of people speaking Welsh, and its European journey begins at a gaelscoil in Sandyford, south Dublin.

Pupils in Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille, Belarmine, are engaging with Chwarae yn Gymraeg (Playing in Welsh), a programme that introduces language and culture in a fun way outside the classroom.

It's aimed at nine- to 12-year-olds and allows children to become familiar with basic vocabulary and key phrases during sport, play and dance. It is already used in English-medium schools in Wales.

Welsh folk dancing is part of the initiative, and the Dublin launch yesterday, fully supported by the Irish Government, was celebrated with a Twmpath – a Welsh version of a céilí – at the school.

Children take a direct role in delivering the programme, with about 60 fifth- and sixth-class pupils at the gaelscoil trained as 'ambassadors' and given materials to support their efforts.

The Welsh minister for education and the Welsh language, Jeremy Miles, and Sian Lewis, who is CEO of Urdd, the Welsh youth organisation that developed the programme, attended the launch in Belarmine, which also marked St David's Day, the patron saint of Wales.

"We know how important the Irish language is to the people of Ireland, so to begin



Traditional folk dancing: Jeremy Miles, the Welsh minister for education, Emer Nic Chonchrada, principal of Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille, Belarmine, and Sian Lewis, CEO of the Urdd. PHOTO: PETER HOULIHAN

our European journey in a gaelscoil is hugely exciting for us," Ms Lewis said. "For us, it's very important that we share good practice with culture cousins. This is the first in Ireland, and we would love to come back and deliver it in schools across Ireland."

Ms Lewis has been involved this week in training staff and pupils at the school, and hopes that "when we leave after two or three days, they have had insight into a language they might never have heard before and a bit about our culture".

"We have given the guidance about how to deliver different games and activity, and if they forgot what we have delivered, they can go back to the materials," she added. "Naturally, after delivering it time and time and again they will remember."

The Chwarae yn Gymraeg initiative was launched in Doha and Dubai as part of Wales's Fifa World Cup campaign. The Welsh government hopes to increase the number of Welsh speakers to one million worldwide within three decades.

State has spent €80,000 on deporting failed asylum-seekers in past two years

Ken Foxe

THE Department of Justice has spent over €80,000 on flights for the enforced deportation of failed asylum-seekers over the past two years.

This included more than €16,000 on a deportation mission to Pakistan, which involved a business-class return flight from the city of Lahore to Doha in Qatar.

The department said the €80,555 spend on flights covered the deportation of 13 different people, the majority to either Georgia or Albania.

It also said that the only enforced deportations that took place between the start

of 2021 and September of last year were cases involving "serious criminality".

This stemmed from a decision by Justice Minister Helen McEntee to halt routine deportation operations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

There were just two enforced deportation flights in 2021 – the €16,310 trip to Pakistan, and a separate trip to Georgia which cost €5,619.

A further 11 deportation flights were organised last year, with flight costs ranging from €1,783 up to almost €17,000, according to records.

The most expensive was an enforced deportation to the Philippines, where an individ-

ual was taken last September at a cost of €16,640.

Flights for the forced removal of a failed asylum-seeker to Barbados last January cost €6,610.

There were also four deportation flights to Albania last year, and five to Georgia, with most taking place from September onwards.

The department said just a single business-class flight had been approved, but these were available on long-haul return legs to Ireland.

An information note stated: "The purpose is to prevent escorts from having to quarantine for a long period during local Covid-19 restrictions."

They said deportations were normally carried out as quickly as possible – but that gardaí sometimes had to stay overnight at their destination.

The department said it did not have details of costs involved in these circumstances, because these were paid directly by An Garda Síochána.

It said 248 people had been removed from Ireland during various immigration processes last year.

There have been a further six enforced deportations so far this year, one confirmed self-deportation, five EU removals, and 13 voluntary returns.

A department spokesperson said deportation and removal processes were an essential part of any immigration system.

"Deportation orders were not enforced during the Covid-19 pandemic, except in cases where an individual's presence in Ireland would be contrary to the public interest," they said.

"With the lifting of public health restrictions and a return to more normal travel at the end of July 2022, these processes recommenced."

The department added that many individuals facing deportation orders voluntarily left the State without notifying the authorities.