

R - 5/6/20

Retention of Pupils In the Same Grade Policy



Lurga National School
Gort,
Co Galway

Retention of Pupils in the Same Grade

The Primary School Curriculum is designed as an 8-year course, including a 2-year infant cycle followed by 6 years in standards from 1st to 6th, with children progressing to the next grade at the end of each school year. The curriculum is flexible and child-centred and can be adapted to meet children's needs.

In Lurga National School and in line with D.E.S. provision (Primary Circular 32/03) pupils receive substantial supports to help them in their learning. They include:

- Differentiation of learning activities by class teachers to respond to individual pupils' learning needs
- Support from learning support teachers, resource teachers and our special needs assistant

These supports help our pupils to make progress in keeping with their needs and abilities and to move through the different class levels in the school along with their class peers.

In line with Department of Education policy:

- Pupils will only be allowed to repeat a year for educational reasons and in exceptional circumstances
- No pupil shall repeat a grade more than once in a primary school
- Pupils who have completed 6th class may not transfer to another primary school to repeat 6th class.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

In order for a child to be retained in the same grade, the parents of the child must submit such a request in writing. Supporting documentation must be submitted with the request.

In accordance with the Department of Education policy, children will only be allowed to repeat a year for educational reasons and in exceptional circumstances. Any decision to acquiesce to a request to repeat a grade will be based on the developmental/learning needs of the child only. In such exceptional circumstances a Principal teacher, following consultation with the Special Education Coordinator, the Special Education Teachers, the class teacher and parent(s), may conclude that a pupil would benefit educationally by repeating a grade level.

RECORD KEEPING

A record outlining the educational basis for the decision to retain a child will be kept for any pupil so retained. In addition, an IPLP (Individual Pupil Learning Profile) will be drawn up indicating what interventions will be put in place for the child to maximise their learning experience and what the expected benefit will be. These records will be retained within the school and will be brought to the Inspector's attention by the Principal when s/he visits the school.

RATIFICATION, REVIEW AND COMMUNICATION

This policy was ratified by the Chairperson of the Board of Management in June 2024 and subsequently communicated to parents and staff via the school website.

This policy will be reviewed in June 2026 and amended as necessary by means of a whole school collaborative process. It will be reviewed before that date if warranted.

Signed Paul Walsh

Dated: 5/8/2024