

37 WAYS

To promote the Irish language
in your club or association

*Ways to make Irish a more
integral part of your club,
association or organisation*



LPT Chloich Cheann Fhaola

INTRO – CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS & LANGUAGE PLANNING

Language planning is essentially about creating more opportunities to speak Irish in the community. There have been many clubs and associations founded in this area already.

Our local clubs, associations and organisations currently are operating in Irish, in English, or a mixture of both. As part of the language plan, the community has set the following goals for our local groups:

1. Irish should remain a spoken and social language.
2. Everyone has the choice to speak in Irish if they want to.
3. Speaking Irish is an easy choice to make, and everyone in the community welcomes the use of Irish.
4. Cultivate an atmosphere where speaking Irish feels normal.
5. Promote the culture of the Gaeltacht.

If you are involved in a club, association, etc, you can have an influence in the promotion of Irish.

If your group follows the points below, even just a few of them, you will give further life to the Irish language in the area.



THE COMMITTEE / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1 Put together a solid language policy that encourages good language practice – take this guide as a starting point!
- 2 Have a senior member of the committee / board take on the responsibility of the language policy to ensure it's followed.
- 3 If your group has a constitution, add an article which outlines the status, role and importance of Irish for your members.
- 4 Have an "Irish Language Officer" as part of the team.
- 5 Gather a group of some motivated members to help foster the use of Irish within the club.
- 6 Appointing an "Irish Language Youth Officer" is a good idea to promote the language among younger members.
- 7 It also helps to have youth leaders who can speak Irish and are motivated to consistently use it with other young members
- 8 Help out members who don't know much Irish by providing extra training or support.

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If the club has some extra funding, offer scholarships to the members who want to do a language course.

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Provide training to leaders and trainers so that they are able and confident to carry out their roles in Irish, or at least in a mix of English and Irish.

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Find out which members are fluent, and ask them to help. Find out which members want to learn, and offer them help.

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Try to have the...

- ☞ meeting notices...
- ☞ meeting agendas...
- ☞ minutes of the meetings...

...in Irish, or maybe bilingual.

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When at meetings, use the Irish version of the titles (i.e. "rúnaí", "cathaoirleach", "coiste" instead of the English "secretary", "chairperson", "committee", etc.)

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At each meeting, have one item about the development of Irish in the club.

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At each meeting, try to discuss at least one item through the medium of Irish.

BRANDING & SIGNAGE

- 16 Pick an Irish name for the club, or provide an Irish version of the name if it doesn't have one already.
- 17 Have the logo, motto, brand of the group in Irish, or bilingual.
- 18 If you have a building, hall, office, or playing facility, give it an Irish name, and foster the habit of using the Irish version. (e.g. *Ionad Naomh Fionnán, Páirc Chloich Cheann Fhaola,..*)
- 19 If there is signage in the place where the members come together, make sure the signage is in Irish or bilingual.
- 20 If the club has bags, jerseys, t-shirts, etc., have whatever text that is on them in Irish or bilingual.
- 21 Use Irish on your stationary and letterheads.

WITH THE MEMBERS & WITH THE PUBLIC

- 22 Have your notices, ads, and temporary signage relating the the activities of the club in Irish or bilingual (e.g. posters, leaflets, schedules, competitions, etc.)
- 23 Use Irish in your correspondences (e.g. letters, emails, group chats)
- 24 Use Irish for your publications (e.g. newsletters, magazines, reports, etc.)
- 25 Use the Irish language version of names and placenames, especially for competitions, occasions, and public events.
- 26 Have a member who is available and able to do interviews in Irish as well as write a press-release if needed.
- 27 Use Irish on your social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok, Snapchat, etc.)
- 28 Make sure your website is available in Irish (and every bit as good and up-to-date as the English version)
- 29 Use Irish with other groups and organisations as much as possible (e.g. other clubs, the state, the county council, etc.)

EVENTS & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 30 Use Irish as the main language for public events (things like speeches, raffle draws, award ceremonies, etc.)
- 31 Choose an MC who is confident and capable to run events in Irish or bilingually.
- 32 If you're planning to invite an expert or external trainer to speak to the members, try to find someone who can do so in Irish.
- 33 When giving awards (like medals, trophies, certificates) have the text in Irish.
- 34 Bring together a group of learners to practice their Irish with fluent speakers (i.e. a conversation circle)
- 35 Have a "Gaeilgeoir na Bliana" competition to get members excited about speaking Irish - appeal to their competitive side!
- 36 Reach out to other culture/language groups and work with them on shared projects.
- 37 Organise Irish language events regularly (start off with one per season, or one per month!) giving members the chance to use and practice their Irish in a fun and social way, e.g:

- 🌀 BBQ
- 🌀 Table Quiz
- 🌀 Arrange a drama performance
- 🌀 A Concert / Trad Music session
- 🌀 Karaoke night
- 🌀 Lá Gaelach
- 🌀 Hillwalking
- 🌀 Poker night / board game night
- 🌀 Tae 7 Plé
- 🌀 Oíche Ghaelach in the local pub
- 🌀 Fundraising events



Pleanáil Teanga

Chloich Cheann fhaola

**We're here to support your club/association/organisation
if you need help or advice!**

Pleanáil Teanga
Pobal Eascarrach
Béal an Átha
An Fál Carrach
Co. Dhún na nGall

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