

**Ábhar**

**Gaelscoileanna agus Scoileanna  
Gaeltachta**

**Mír Físe**

**Nuacht TG4  
3 Márta 2009**

**Téacsanna léitheoireachta**

*Irish Times*  
**9 Nollaig 2008**  
*The language of educational apartheid,*  
**Kate Holmquist**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/features/2008/1209/1228571684645.html>

*Irish Times*  
**18 Nollaig 2008**  
**Litir ó Mhuireann Ní Mhóráin chuig  
an eagarthóir**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2008/1218/1229523050392.html>

**Téacsanna léitheoireachta le  
caoinhead ón *Irish Times*.**

Ní cúrsa teagaisc ná plean ranga atá i gceist leis an ábhar samplach seo. Is **sampla** atá ann de na cineálacha tascanna a d'fhéadfaí a bhunú ar théacsanna éagsúla d'fhonn is na hinniúlachtaí agus na scileanna atá á gcur chun cinn sa siollabas a fhorbairt. Moltar go gcuirfeadh teagascóirí an t-ábhar **in oiriúint dá gcuid mac léinn féin.**



An Mheitheal um Theagasc  
na Gaeilge ar an Tríú Leibhéal

# Gaelscoileanna agus Scoileanna Gaeltachta

## Réamhobair

Seo an chéad líne as tuairisc nuachta a mbeidh tú ag féachaint uirthi ar ball:

‘I suirbhé atá déanta ag an nuachtán an *Sunday Times* ar an gceithre chéad scoil dara leibhéal is fearr sa tír, tá dea-scéala agus drochscéala do Ghaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta’.

Déan féin agus an duine in aice leat iarracht cnámha an scéil a chur le chéile, bunaithe ar an abairt thuas.

‘Gaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta’: pléigí an difear, dar libh, atá idir an dá chineál scoile thuas.

## Éisteacht

Anois féach ar an tuairisc agus déan na cleachtaí seo:

1. Scríobh achoimre ghearr (3 abairt) ar ábhar na míre seo. Faigh cabhair ó dhuine eile chun an achoimre a dhéanamh.
2. Déan iarracht an uimhir / staitistic cheart sa cholún ar chlé a cheangal leis an eolas ceart sa cholún ar dheis.

9/10	ardú ar Choláiste Cholmcille
324	líon scoláirí i gColáiste Cholmcille
102	scoileanna aonghnéis
180	ardú ar ráta Phobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair
45	Coláiste Croí Mhuire
146	Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola
99-155	Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne
86	Coláiste Cholmcille i 2007

3. Plé: Cé acu ceann den dá thasc éisteachta thuas ab éasca, dar leat? Cén fáth?
4. Plé: Cé acu is deacra, dar leat – éisteacht chun tuairim an-ghinearálta a fháil nó éisteacht i gcomhair mionsonraí a aimsiú? Cé acu ceann is tairbhí agus tú ag foghlaim teanga, dar leat?

5. An cuimhin leat an leagan Gaeilge de na frásaí seo a bhí sa tuairisc?:

one of the main teacher training colleges  
Royal College of Surgeons  
National College of Art and Design  
single-sex school

## Feasacht Teanga

1. Déan ransú intinne le do ghrúpa ar na focail ar fad atá ar eolas agaibh faoi chúrsaí oideachais / scoileanna.
2. Tá roinnt staitisticí sa tuairisc seo. An bhfuil Gaeilge agat ar na focail eile seo a bhaineann leis an réimse céanna?

a third of	20%	on average	minimum
half of	a percentage	maximum	increase
decrease	10.5%	minus	plus

3. Cad é an difear idir ‘ochtú’ agus ‘ochtó’? Idir ‘seachtú’ agus ‘seachtó’? Cuir in abairtí iad chun an difear a léiriú.

## Iarphlé

Féach ar na ráitis seo as liosta a chuir duine a tógadh i gceantar Gaeltachta le chéile de na rudaí aisteacha a dúirt daoine léi faoin nGaeilge agus faoin nGaeltacht i rith a saoil. Pléigh na míthuiscintí faoin oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscoile atá sna ráitis.

- ‘It must have been so hard for you to have to do everything through Irish!’
- ‘Did you do Irish to get the extra marks in the Leaving?’
- ‘I don’t think it’s fair on kids to have to do their maths through Irish’.

## Tascanna

1. Déan féin agus do ghrúpa plé ginearálta ar na buntáistí / míbhuntáistí a bhaineann leis na cineálacha scoileanna thíos. Ansin roghnaígh comparáid amháin chun pointí dearfacha agus diúltacha a scríobh fúithi.

scoileanna buachaillí v. scoileanna cailíní  
scoileanna cónaithe v. scoileanna lae  
scoileanna príobháideacha v. scoileanna poiblí  
scoileanna dianteagaisc v. gnáthscoileanna  
scoileanna Caitliceacha v. scoileanna ilchreidmheacha

2. Léigh an t-alt as an *Irish Times* a scríobh Kate Holmquist agus pléigh é le do ghrúpa. An bhfuil aon ráitis ann a n-aontódh / a n-esaontódh sibh leo? Má tá aon rud san alt a n-esaontódh sibh leis, abraigí cén fáth.

*stór focal úsáideach:*

fíricí, díolúine, Gaeilge éigeantach, líomhaintí, sainriachtanais foghlama, cinedheighilt, réamhthuairimí.

3. Is í Muireann Ní Mhóráin príomhfheidhmeannach na heagraíochta *an Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta*. Thug sise freagra ar alt Kate Holmquist agus beidh tú á léamh ar ball. Ar dtús, déan féin agus do pháirtí creatlach de fhreagra a chumadh (na príomhphointí a bheadh agaibh).
4. Más spéis leat agallamh raidió a rinne Muireann Ní Mhóráin faoin gceist seo a chloisteáil, tá sé le fáil i measc phodchraoltaí Raidió na Gaeltachta (an clár ‘Céim ar Chéim’, 11 Nollaig 2008, 30:14). Freagraíonn Muireann cuid de na mórcheisteanna a ardaíodh in alt Kate Holmquist: (i) Cad é bunús an bhónais 10% don Ghaeilge?; (ii) Cad atá i gceist le Gaeilge éigeantach?; (iii) Cad a deir an taighde faoi na sainriachtanais foghlama?

Seo gluais chun cabhrú leat an t-agallamh a thuiscint:

ag áiteamh	<i>asserting</i>
ní haon ualach é	<i>it's not a burden</i>
buntáiste nach bhfuil dlite	<i>an undeserved advantage</i>
maslach	<i>insulting</i>
ag séanadh cearta	<i>denying rights</i>
sainriachtanais foghlama	<i>special needs</i>
scannal	<i>a scandal</i>
cinedheighilt	<i>apartheid</i>
cúiteamh	<i>compensation</i>

5. Scríobh píosa gearr dar teideal ‘Gaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta – ní hionann iad’.

Tá níos mó eolais le fáil faoi Ghaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta ar an idirlíon ar na suímh [www.gaelscoileanna.ie](http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie) agus [www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie) (an Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta).

# Téipscript

## Maolra Mac Donncha

I suirbhé atá déanta ag an nuachtán an *Sunday Times* ar an gceithre chéad scoil dara leibhéal is fearr sa tír, tá dea-scéala agus drochscéala do Ghaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta. Léiríonn an suirbhé gur fearr a chruthaíonn daltaí a dhéanann freastal ar scoileanna buachaillí nó scoileanna cailíní seachas daltaí i scoileanna measctha. Tá an scéal uile ag Eibhlín Ní Choisdealbha.

## Eibhlín Ní Choisdealbha

Cuireadh an liosta seo de na ceithre chéad scoil dara leibhéal is fearr sa tír le chéile, bunaithe ar an méid daltaí a d'aimsigh áit in aon Ollscoil Éireannach, Sasanach, in Albain nó sa Bhreatain Bheag nó i gceann de na príomhcholáistí oiliúna do mhúinteoirí, i gColáiste Ríoga na Máinlia in Éirinn nó sa Choláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne agus Deartha. Tá trí Ghaelscoil ainmnithe i measc na deich gcinn de scoileanna is fearr sa tír, sin iad, Coláiste Eoin/Íosagáin i mBaile Átha Cliath, agus *Laurel Hill* i Luimneach, agus is scoileanna aonghnéis naoi gcinn as na deich gcinn is fearr. I measc na scoileanna ar tháinig feabhas an-mhór orthu tá Coláiste Cholmcille in Indreabhán i nGaeltacht Chonamara. Bhí an scoil seo ag trí chéad fiche ceathair ar an liosta déanach a foilsíodh i dhá mhíle is a seacht, ach i mbliana tá siad ag céad fiche a dó, sin ardú de dhá chéad agus a dó áit.

## Gearóid Ó Dubhlaoidh – Príomhoide Choláiste Cholmcille

Scoil réasúnta beag\* atá againn anseo, tá thart ar chéad ochtó scoláire againn agus tá na ranganna réasúnta beag freisin.

Thug sé go leor misnigh\*\* do na múinteoirí anseo é sin a fheiceáil ar na páipéir. Is léiriú é ar an méid oibre atá siad ag déanamh anseo i gcaitheamh na mblianta agus is iontach an rud é sin don scoil go bhfuil muid chomh hard sin.

## Eibhlín Ní Choisdealbha

Tá ardú de dhaichead a cúig áit tagtha ar ráta Phobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair leis, de réir an chritéir.

## Noel Ó Gallachóir – Príomhoide Phobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair

Tá meas mór ag tuismitheoirí agus scoláirí ar oideachas tríú leibhéal mar tá a fhios acu sa saol atá ann inniu go gcaithfidh tú céim tríú leibhéal a bheith agat fá choinne fáil ar aghaidh sa saol, go háirithe an dóigh a bhfuil cúrsaí eacnamaíochta anois le traidhfil blianta anuas.

## Eibhlín Ní Choisdealbha

I measc na scoileanna a thit ar an liosta seo de réir an chritéir, tá Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola san Fhál Charrach i dTír Chonail a thit céad daichead a sé áit agus Coláiste Croí Mhuire ar an Spidéal i gConamara a bhí ag uimhir a nócha naoi agus

anois ag céad caoga cúig. D'éirigh le dhá scoil, a bhfuil go leor conspóide tarraingthe acu maidir le teanga teagaisc na scoile, áiteanna arda a bhaint amach, sin iad Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne sa Daingean i gCiarraí a bhain uimhir a hochtó sé amach ar an liosta, agus seo an chéad bhliain di a bheith san áireamh ann, agus Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada ar Árann Mhór i dTír Chonaill a bhí ar an tríú scoil bheag is fearr sa tír. Deineadh scoileanna beaga, le níos lú ná céad dalta iontu, a rangú leo féin agus sa liosta sin, tá seacht gcinn de scoileanna Gaeltachta dara leibhéal i measc na deich gcinn de scoileanna beaga is fearr sa tír.

Eibhlín Ní Choisdealbha, Nuacht TG4, i gConamara.

\*‘bheag’ a deirtear sa tuairisc

\*\*‘misneach’ a deirtear sa tuairisc

**Irish Times 9 Nollaig 2008.**  
**The language of educational apartheid**

**<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/features/2008/1209/1228571684645.html>**

GIVE ME A BREAK: ON THE DART the other day I heard a man and a woman conversing in Irish – gossiping, flirting a little, sharing news, writes Kate Holmquist

Their conversation was lilting, sparkling language at its best. In my office, those who speak the language sometimes take phone calls in Irish or share a few words across desks. To hear Irish spoken naturally and with pleasure is a delight. But to hear it forced and stilted, to struggle over it as the children do homework they barely understand, while I, the parent who is supposed to help them, understand even less, is the opposite of pleasure. Spoken by choice, the language blossoms; learned by force, it shrivels and is hard to crack. While I appreciate the language, I abhor the educational apartheid that goes along with it.

The fact that children in Irish-speaking schools – some who already come from Irish-speaking backgrounds – get extra marks in the Leaving Cert is a scandal. Students in Irish schools doing their exams through Irish enjoy positive discrimination, with an advantage in the Leaving Cert of up to 10 per cent of their original result, and that puts children in English-speaking schools, from English-speaking and immigrant families, at a disadvantage.

In the league tables of "feeder schools" published in The Irish Times last week, seven of the top 25 feeder schools (fee-paying and non-fee-paying) were Irish-speaking, while 14 of the top 25 non-fee-paying schools were Irish-speaking. You don't have to be able to speak Irish to figure out that if you want to give your child the best chance of getting into university and still be able to afford a holiday, you send them to a non-fee-paying Irish school, which requires living near an Irish secondary school, often in counties Cork, Donegal, Mayo or Kerry, the heartlands of Irish-speaking privilege. But you don't have to be outside Dublin – two of the highest-scoring Irish-speaking schools are in Stillorgan, Co Dublin, where relatively privileged families make the most of the Department of Education's 10 per cent Leaving Cert points bonus.

Not only will your child be surrounded by mostly middle-class children and get the 10 per cent bonus, but he or she will also be likely to have smaller classes, aiding performance in other subjects. Every year, the Leaving Cert students with the most As come largely from Irish-speaking schools.

This is positive discrimination, and it wouldn't be tolerated anywhere else. Can you imagine the uproar if the Department of Education awarded an extra 10 per cent to English-speaking students doing their exams through French or Arabic or Mandarin. There is an apartheid between children who go to Irish-speaking schools and those who don't, which is why Irish should be taken off the compulsory curriculum in secondary school and ranked with French, Spanish, German and Mandarin as a subject to choose, with no extra points. Why should learning maths, geography and home economics through Irish give anyone a better chance of getting into medicine or law? If students want to study Irish as a second or third language, then let them, but in

a global Ireland where students of various backgrounds are competing, why should those from Irish schools have the advantage?

The facts speak for themselves. Students from Irish-speaking schools are more likely to get on the university course of their choice, whether it's law, medicine or the arts.

Non-Irish-speaking secondary-school students are aware of their disadvantage. It's got to the stage now where having dyslexia is considered an enviable bonus among secondary-school students, because it exempts these students from having to do Irish. Dyslexia is linked to creativity and coping skills, and if your child is going to have a "special need", it's the one to pick. But there are children with dyspraxia, ADHD and other neurological disorders who have similar difficulties but are not exempt from Irish if they can show capability in English.

Parents and teachers have spent thousands of hours encouraging these children to communicate well in English, yet when they succeed, the children are put at a disadvantage by being made to study Irish. If only they'd written their letters the wrong way round and become exempt! While the department says that all children should learn Irish, the Irish-speaking schools have far fewer children with learning disabilities than other schools. The department's own audit showed few children with special needs in Irish-speaking schools – so are Irish-language schools weeding these children out?

But the best argument of all against the compulsory learning of Irish in secondary school is that we are a multicultural society where many languages are spoken. Those who speak Irish well are not the underprivileged, they are the privileged. For whatever reason, they go to Irish-speaking schools. But they have no more right to 10 per cent extra points in the Leaving Cert than do Muslim, French or Chinese children doing the Leaving Cert through English.



**18 Nollaig 2008**

**'Apartheid' slur on Gaelscoileanna not based on facts**

**Muireann Ní Mhóráin**

**<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2008/1218/1229523050392.html>**

AN EYE-CATCHING phrase like "educational apartheid" may grab attention but it should have some basis in reality. That reality, in Kate Holmquist's recent assault on Irish-medium education, is an anecdotal world in which middle-class, privileged parents are said to be gaining an unfair advantage for their children by the novel route of having them attend all-Irish schools.

The facts, she says, speak for themselves. However, the series of factual errors by the often excellent Holmquist is remarkable. Political correctness aside, the use of a term like apartheid has to have some consciousness of its historical reality.

The Stillorgan she refers to (the schools she singles out are not actually in Stillorgan) is a long way from Soweto. Still, the suggestion that its citizens are enjoying an educational leg-up by opting for Irish-medium schools is worthy of examination.

It is correct to state that pupils who answer certain subjects in Irish at the written State examination are awarded extra marks – between 3 and 10 per cent – but this happens on a sliding scale. High-achieving pupils who go on to study, say, medicine benefit minimally from the bonus and only a tiny number nationally gain entrance by being awarded these additional marks.

In any language, 14 of the top 25 non-fee-paying schools ("fee-paying" Gaelscoileanna do not exist) in The Irish Times league table of feeder schools are not, as we are informed, Irish-speaking institutions. Only two of the schools are Gaelscoileanna. A further two teach some students through Irish. It is common for schools to have Irish language names, eg Clochar Íosa agus Mhuire, but not to teach through Irish.

Next statement: "Every year, the most Leaving Cert students with the most As come largely from Irish-speaking schools."

In schoolyard parlance: Says who? No official figures are available quantifying the exam grades achieved by any category of pupil, nor is it currently legal to publish any such league tables.

We are blithely assured that "students from Irish-speaking schools are more likely to get on the university course of their choice, whether it's law, medicine or the arts".

This is simply not the case, as The Irish Times correctly reported in its Feeder Schools 2008 analysis: nearly 70 per cent of the top-ranked schools are fee-paying, English-medium schools.

Attending an Irish-speaking school, your child "will be surrounded by mostly middle-class children". Post-primary Gaelscoileanna in the Dublin area are based in Cabra, Clondalkin, Donaghmede, Glasnevin, Lucan and Tallaght, as well as Booterstown.

All cater for pupils in their catchment areas and beyond, without regard to socio-economic background.

The child will also be likely "to have smaller classes", apparently. Any reference to published figures? Any basis in fact whatsoever? None.

Holmquist informs us things have "got to the stage now where having dyslexia is considered an enviable bonus amongst secondary school students, because it exempts these students from having to do Irish". Readers can make up their own minds on the virtues of this phrase.

The consoling quip "if only they'd written their letters the wrong way and become exempt" can be dismissed as juvenile.

A fantastic scenario is conjured up of parents and teachers struggling heroically to enable the children in their care to "communicate well" in English, only for all this good work to go to waste, as the unfortunate pupils are then disadvantaged by "being made to study Irish".

International evidence shows that children with language difficulties benefit from learning an additional language. In any event, the progress of these children would logically be stymied by "being made" to work their way through mathematics, history, science, French etc.

Bonus points for Mathematics would support progressive economic policy, we are now told. But bonus points for studying through Irish? Regressive at best, a form of racism at worst.

The inspiration for this polemic seems to have been an overheard conversation as Gaeilge on the Dart. Sadly, it reeks of "dúirt bean liom go ndúirt bean léi".

And as for the paper of record? Must try harder.

Muireann Ní Mhóráin is chief executive of An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta.