



Mater Dei Academy: Class Level Guide for Irish

Junior Infants: No pre-requisites

Senior Infants: Your child already knows 20-30 common words for animals, colours, objects, food etc. as well as simple phrases (e.g., *Áine is ainmn dom, Go raibh maith agat*, etc.) and at least 5 simple *rannta* (Irish rhymes) such as *Rolaí polaí, Gugalaí gug, Súil súil eile* etc.

First Class: Your child already knows 50-60 common words and can read simple sentences from written text in their Irish reader. Your child can say their name, describe the weather and the describe the colours of common objects. They can sing at least two simple Irish songs (e.g., *An bhfaca tú mo Sheamuisín, Báidín Fheilimí*) and recite a number of *rannta* from memory.

Second Class: Your child can already read more complex sentences. They know over 100 common words. They can write the answers to simple sentences from their reader text. They can also memorise simple Irish spellings as well as longer poems and songs (e.g., *Téir Abhaile Riú, Beidh Aonach Amárach* etc.). They can count people and objects up to 10.

Third Class: Your child can already read more complex sentences in the past, present and future tense. They know over 150 common words. They can ask and answer simple questions orally (e.g., *Cá bhfuil conaí ort? Cé mhéad duine atá i do chlann? Cad is ainm do do mhúinteoir? Cén spórt is fearr leat? Conas atá an aimsir?*) They can write the answers to more complex sentences from their reader text. They can also memorise Irish spellings as well as more complicated poems and songs (e.g., *Amhrán na bhFiann, Óró 'Sé do Bheatha Abhaile*). They can count people and objects to 20.

Fourth Class: Your child already has a working knowledge of simple conversational themes (e.g., weather, food, pastimes, where they live etc.). Your child can answer more complex written questions from their Irish reader. Your child knows the common prepositional pronouns (e.g., *liom, leat..., agam, agat..., orm, ort...*) and the *Aimsir Chaite* (past tense) of regular and irregular verbs. Your child can recall a number of Irish poems and songs from memory. Your child can count people and objects to 100.

Fifth Class: Your child can converse fluently in simple Irish. Your child already has a foundational knowledge of regular and irregular verb conjugation in the *Aimsir Chaite* (past) and *Aimsir Láithreach* (present). They can

write simple sentences correctly from dictation (e.g., *Thit an liathróid isteach sa pholl*). They know the prepositional pronouns (*ag, le, chuig, as, ar, faoi* etc.) They understand the basic rules of *seimhiú* (aspiration) and *urú* (eclipsis) usage. Your child can memorise and recall Irish poems and songs.

Sixth Class: Your child already has an expanded vocabulary in Irish and can converse on specific themes at will (e.g., *mo cheantar dúchais, mo chairde, mo chaitheamh aimsire* etc.) Your child has a firm understanding of regular and irregular verb conjugations in the *Aimsir Chaite* (past), *Aimsir Láithreach* (present) and *Aimsir Fháistineach* (future). They can write simple sentences without direction upon a theme (e.g., *Lá ar an Trá, An Chluiche Mór*) and can write more complex sentences correctly from dictation (e.g., *Go tobann, thit mo mháthair bun os cionn sa pholl.*) They can recite important Irish poems from memory (e.g., *Anseo i lár an Ghleanna, Tír na nÓg*).

First Year: Your child can already speak and write fluently on specific topics and themes (e.g., *Mo Laethanta Saoire, Turas go Baile Átha Cliath, Lá Fhéile Pádraig* etc.). Your child has a firm grasp of the *Aimsir Chaite* (past), *Aimsir Láithreach* (present) and *Aimsir Fháistineach* (future) as well as a working knowledge of the *Modh Coinníollach* (conditional tense). They understand the use of conditional clauses (*má* and *dá*) as well as the use of the *Tuiseal Ginideach* (genitive case).