



Mater Dei Academy: Class Level Guide for Irish

On completing Junior Infants: Your child already knows about 20 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.

On completing Senior Infants: Your child already knows 30-40 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 and recite a number of *rannta* from memory.

On completing First Class: Your child can already read more complex sentences. They know over 50 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. They can count people and objects up to 10.

On completing Second Class: Your child can already read more complex sentences in the past, present and future tense. They know over 70 common words. They can answer simple questions orally (e.g., *Cad is ainm duit? Cá bhfuil conaí ort? Cé mhéad duine atá i do chlann? 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. They can count people and objects to 20.

On completing Third Class: Your child already has a working knowledge of simple conversational themes and places (e.g., weather, food, pastimes, where they live, the town, the garden etc.) Your child can answer more complex written questions from their Irish reader. Your child is familiar with vocabulary for specific themes and has over 100 common words. Your child can recall a number of Irish poems and songs from memory.

On completing Fourth Class: Your child can hold a basic conversation in Irish by introducing themselves and their family. In grammar, your child has a basic understanding of prepositional pronouns (*liom, dom, agam* etc.) and can count people and objects to 100. Your child can correctly spell simple phrases by dictation. Your child can answer complex written questions from their Irish reader.

On completing 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. 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. Your child can count people and objects to 100.

On completing Sixth Class: Your child already has an expanded vocabulary in Irish and can converse on specific themes (e.g., *mo cheantar dúchais, mo chairde, mo chaitheamh aimsire* etc.) Your child has an 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 and can write more complex sentences correctly from dictation. They can recite important Irish poems from memory (e.g., *Anseo i lár an Ghleanna, Tír na nÓg*).

On completing Sixth Class: Your child already has an expanded vocabulary in Irish and can converse on specific themes (e.g., *mo cheantar dúchais, mo chairde, mo chaitheamh aimsire* etc.) Your child has an 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 and can write more complex sentences correctly from dictation. They can recite important Irish poems from memory (e.g., *Anseo i lár an Ghleanna, Tír na nÓg*).

On completing First Year: Your child has an expanded vocabulary across 10 key themes (e.g., *Mé Féin, Mo Cheantar, Mo Theaghlach, Mo Scoil* etc.) as well as a significant expansion in technical vocabulary specific to these themes through reading and comprehension exercises. Your child has reviewed the regular and irregular verbs in past, present and future, as well as the personal prepositions (*na réamhfhocail pearsanta*) and the first and second declension nouns. Your child has developed his or her writing skills through guided writing assignments across the key themes culminating in independent four-paragraph compositions in descriptive and letter writing (e.g., *Lá Cois Faraige, Turas go dtí an Loch* etc.). Your child has significantly developed their aural comprehension with a series of listening exercises and dialogues across the key themes. Finally, your child can speak in simple phrases and respond to questions on each of the key themes, deepening oral comprehension and dialogue skills.

On completing Second Year: Upon completion of the second year course, students should have a broadened vocabulary across the A1 themes. These

include themes of family life and activities, pastimes, locality, health, shopping, food and drink, travel and directions. There is a strong emphasis on oral expression across these themes with students now able to form coherent conversation using simple Irish in these areas. Written assignments also mirror these themes across letter writing, descriptive writing, prose and narrative summaries of text excerpts. The students understanding of Irish history and heritage is deepened with comprehension exercises on the early Irish saints, Irish monasticism and the four Irish provinces. Students also learn a number of important and well-known classical poems and songs which widen their cultural appreciation and vocabulary. New grammar themes include the conditional tense and the categorising of masculine and feminine nouns into their five declensions.