

AN tACHT OIDEACHAIS (LEASÚ), 2022

Acht do leasú an Acht Oideachais 1998 agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

[LL MM, 202X]

ACHTAÍTEAR AG AN OIREACHTAS MAR A LEANAS:

Míniú

1. San Acht seo, ciallaíonn "Príomh-Acht" an tAcht Oideachais, 1998.

Leasú ar an bPríomh-Acht

2. Leasaítear an Príomh-Acht trí na hailt seo a leanas a chur isteach i ndiaidh alt 31:

"An tascfhórsa a bhunú

31A. (1) Déanfaidh an tAire, le hordú, lá a cheapadh, tráth nach déanaí ná 6 mhí tar éis an tAcht Oideachais (Leasú), 2022 a rith, chun bheith ina lá bunaithe (dá ngairtear an 'lá bunaithe' san Acht seo) chun críocha an Achta seo.

(2) An lá bunaithe, beidh coiste arna bhunú ar a dtabharfar an Tascfhórsa chun an Soláthar Oideachais trí Mheán na Gaeilge a mhéadú (dá ngairtear 'an tascfhórsa' san Acht seo) arb í an Ghaeilge a teanga oibre agus is é nó is í an tAire a sholáthróidh rúnaíocht agus feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin an tascfhórsa, ar rúnaíocht agus feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin iad a mbeidh leas-ard-rúnaí de chuid na Roinne Oideachais I gceannas orthu.

(3) Is iad a bheidh ar an tascfhórsa, cathaoirleach, leaschathaoirleach agus líon gnáthchomhaltaí nach lú ná 12 ná nach mó ná 14 agus is é nó is í an tAire a cheapfaidh gach duine acu agus iad go léir inniúil sa Ghaeilge.

(4) Áireofar ar ghnáthchomhaltaí an tascfhórsa —

(a) Cathaoirleach an chomhlachta daoine a bheidh bunaithe ag an Aire de bhun alt 31 den Acht seo nó a ainmní;

(b) aon chomhalta amháin nach ísle céime ná leas-ard-rúnaí a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire mar ionadaí don Roinn Oideachais,

(c) aon chomhalta amháin nach ísle céime ná príomhoifigeach a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe mar ionadaí don Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe,

(d) aon chomhalta amháin as measc a foireann bainistíochta sinsearaí a bheidh ainmnithe ag an gComhairle Múinteoireachta mar ionadaí don Chomhairle Múinteoireachta,

(e) Triúr comhaltaí eile ar a mhéid a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire tar éis próiseas arna bhunú ag an tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí, mar ionadaithe do phatrúin scoile aitheanta a chuireann oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge ar fáil agus an mbunleibhéal agus an iar-bhunleibhéal araon gan níos mó ná comhalta amháin a ainmniú do gach pátrún;

(f) Beirt chomhaltaí eile ar a mhéid a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire mar ionadaithe do institiúidí oiliúna múinteoirí mar is cú leis an Aire,

(g) aon chomhalta amháin a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire, tar éis próiseas arna bhunú ag an tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí, mar ionadaí do Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta, agus

(h) aon chomhalta amháin a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire, tar éis próiseas arna bhunú ag an tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí, mar ionadaí do limistéir den Stát nach Limistéir Pleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta.

(i) aon chomhalta amháin a bheidh ainmnithe ag an Aire mar ionadaí de na ceanneagraíochtaí arna maoiniú ag Foras na Gaeilge mar is cú leis an Aire.

(5) Beidh comhalta an tascfhórsa faoi réir cibé téarmaí agus coinníollacha, agus íocfar leis nó léi cibé liúntais i leith caiteachas, a chinnfidh an tAire, le toiliú an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe.

(6) Más rud é go bhfuil an Cathaoirleach neamhábalta ar chúis ar bith gníomhú mar Chathaoirleach, féadfaidh an tAire comhalta eile den tascfhórsa a shainainmniú chun gníomhú mar Chathaoirleach. Comhlíonfaidh an leaschathaoirleach feidhmeanna an Chathaoirligh de réir mar is gá.

(7) Sealbhóidh comhalta den tascfhórsa oifig ar feadh cibé tréimhse, nach faide ná 4 bliana ó dháta a cheaptha nó a ceaptha, a chinnfidh an tAire.

(8) Faoi réir fho-alt (9), beidh comhalta den tascfhórsa a rachaidh a théarma oifige nó a téarma oifige in éag trí imeacht aimsire in-athcheaptha chun an tascfhórsa.

(9) Aon chomhalta den tascfhórsa a mbeidh fóna aige nó aici ar feadh 2 théarma oifige as a chéile, ní bheidh sé nó sí in-athcheaptha chun an tascfhórsa go dtí go mbeidh tréimhse 4 bliana caite tar éis dheireadh an dara téarma as a chéile.

(10) Féadfaidh comhalta den tascfhórsa éirí as an tascfhórsa trí litir a bheidh dírithe chuig an Aire, agus beidh éifeacht leis an éirí as ar an dáta a bheidh sonraithe sa litir, nó ar an dáta ar a bhfaighidh an tAire an litir, cibé acu is déanaí.

(11) Féadfaidh an tAire, aon tráth, comhalta den tascfhórsa a chur as comhaltas den tascfhórsa más rud é, i dtuairim an Aire, go bhfuil an comhalta tar éis éirí éagumasach, de dheasca easláinte, ar a fheidhmeanna nó a feidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh, nó gur mhí-iompair an comhalta é féin nó í féin mar a bheidh sonraithe, nó gur dealraitheach don Aire gur gá é nó í a chur as comhaltas chun go gcomhlíonfaidh an tascfhórsa a fheidhmeanna go héifeachtach.

(12) Scoirfidh comhalta den tascfhórsa de bheith, agus beidh sé nó sí dícháilithe chun bheith, ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta den tascfhórsa más rud é, maidir leis an gcomhalta sin—

(a) ar é nó í a chiontú ar díotáil ag cúirt dlínse inniúla, go ngearrfar téarma príosúnachta air nó uirthi, nó

(b) go bhfuil sé nó sí, nó go measfar é nó í a bheith, faoi réir ordú dícháilíochta, de réir bhrí Chaibidil 4 de Chuid 14 d' Acht na gCuideachtaí,

2014 , cibé acu de bhua na Caibidle sin nó de bhua aon fhoráil eile den Acht sin.

(13) Is é an tascfhórsa a chinnfidh a chuid nósanna imeachta féin.

(14) Déanfar orduithe faoin alt seo a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas a luaithe is féidir tar éis a dhéanta agus, má dhéanann ceachtar Teach acu sin, laistigh den 21 lá a shuífidh an Teach sin tar éis an t-ordú a leagan faoina bhráid, rún a rith ag neamhniú an ordaithe, beidh an t-ordú ar neamhniú dá réir sin, ach sin gan dochar do bhailíocht aon ní a rinneadh roimhe sin faoin ordú.

(15) San alt seo tá le 'Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta' an bhrí chéanna atá leis i gCuid 2 d'Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.

Feidhmeanna an Tascfhórsa

31B. (1) Déanfaidh an tascfhórsa a luaithe is féidir ach tráth nach déanaí ná bliain amháin tar éis an lae bunaithe, Plean Náisiúnta (dá ngairtear an 'Plean Náisiúnta' san Acht seo), maidir le soláthar oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge a mhéadú ar feadh tréimhse a bheidh sonraithe sa Phlean Náisiúnta (is tréimhse nach faide ná 6 bliana), a ullmhú agus a chur faoi bhráid an Aire lena cheadú. Beidh san áireamh sa Phlean Náisiúnta:

- (a) spriocanna a leagan amach (amchláir san áireamh);
- (b) tagarmhairc intomhaiste ar féidir rath na stráitéise agus an dul chun cinn i ndáil le spriocanna a mheas;
- (c) forálacha i gcomhar athbhreithnithe tréimhsiúla le measúnú cé acu atá nó nach bhfuil spriocanna á mbaint amach.

(2) Ullmhóidh an Tascfhórsa gach Plean Náisiúnta dá éis sin tráth nach luaithe ná 18 mí, agus nach déanaí ná 6 mhí, roimh dheireadh na tréimhse a bheidh sonraithe sa Phlean Náisiúnta agus beidh feidhm ag alt 31C, fara aon mhodhnuithe is gá, i ndáil le gach Plean Náisiúnta dá éis sin amháil is dá mba thagairt do Phlean Náisiúnta dá éis sin aon tagairt don Phlean Náisiúnta san alt sin.

(3) Le linn dó a fheidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh faoin Acht seo, beidh aird ag an Tascfhórsa ar na cuspóirí seo a leanas—

- (a) Chun líon iomlán na ndaltaí i mbunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge sa Stát a mhéadú a luaithe is indéanta tar éis an lae bunaithe, ach tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2040, go dtí 20 faoin gcéad ar a laghad;
- (b) Gan dochar do ghinearálta fo-alt (a) tabharfar aird ar leith ar na limistéir rialtais áitiúla nó codanna de limistéir rialtais áitiúla ina bhfuil líon na ndaltaí i mbunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ag leibhéal níos lú ná 20 faoin gcéad de na daltaí uile bunscoile;
- (c) Chun líon iomlán na ndaltaí in iarbunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge sa Stát a mhéadú a luaithe is indéanta tar éis an lae bunaithe, ach tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2040, go dtí 20 faoin gcéad ar a laghad;
- (d) Gan dochar do ghinearálta fo-alt (c) tabharfar aird ar leith ar na limistéir rialtais áitiúla nó codanna de limistéir rialtais áitiúla ina bhfuil líon na ndaltaí in

iarbhunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ag leibhéal níos lú ná 20 faoin gcéad de na daltaí uile iarbhunscoile;

- (e) Agus an plean á tharraingt suas aici, beidh aird ag an Tascfhórsa ar aighneachtaí arna ndéanamh ag patrúin scoile, tuismitheoirí agus páirtithe leasmhara eile, lena n-áirítear an tAire, a thugann fianaise maidir le héileamh áitiúil ar oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge nach bhfuiltear ag freastal air agus lorgófar na haighneachtaí sin ag tús na tréimhse chun an plean a tharraingt suas;
- (f) Agus an plean á tharraingt suas aici, déanfaidh an Tascfhórsa gach iarracht lena chinntiú go mbeidh na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ionadaíoch ar shochaí na hÉireann trí chéile ina héagsúlacht uile;
- (g) Agus an plean á tharraingt suas aici, déanfaidh an Tascfhórsa gach iarracht lena chinntiú go ndéanfaidh na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge freastal ar dhaltaí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais nó riachtanais bhreise oideachais acu;
- (h) Chun an soláthar trí mheán na Gaeilge ag an tríú leibhéal a leathnú le tacú le soláthar múinteoirí leordhóthanach don oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge ag an mbunleibhéal agus ag an iar-bhunleibhéal, go sonrach an méadú sa soláthar de bhun fho-ailt (a) agus (c);
- (i) Chun áirithiú go mbeidh na tacaí agus na hacmhainní a bheidh ar fáil as Gaeilge do scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ag leibhéal agus de chaighdeán nach lú a mbuntáiste i gcomórtas leis na tacaí agus leis na hacmhainní a bheidh ar fáil as Béarla;
- (j) Chun na costais mheasta idir chaipiteal agus reatha a leagan amach maidir leis an bplean a chur i bhfeidhm.

Agus rachaidh an tascfhórsa i gcomhairle leis an gcomhlacht daoine a bheidh bunaithe ag an Aire de bhun alt 31 den Acht seo agus le pé daoine eile is cuí leis an Tascfhórsa maidir le comhlíonadh fheidhmeanna an Tascfhórsa.

(4) Beidh ag an Tascfhórsa na cumhachtaí sin go léir is gá nó is fóirsteanach chun a fheidhmeanna a chomhlíonadh.

(5) San alt seo—

Ciallaíonn 'bunscoil lánGhaeilge' bunscoil ina seachadtar an curaclam agus go ndéantar an teagasc ar fad sa scoil trí mheán na Gaeilge agus gurb í an Ghaeilge teanga oibre agus riaracháin inmheánaigh na scoile agus a cuid seirbhísí tacaíochta gan dochar don scothchleachtas an Béarla agus teangacha ón iasacht a mhúineadh trí mheán na sprioctheanga.

Ciallaíonn 'iarbhunscoil lánGhaeilge' iarbhunscoil ina seachadtar an curaclam agus go ndéantar an teagasc ar fad sa scoil trí mheán na Gaeilge agus gurb í an Ghaeilge teanga oibre agus riaracháin inmheánaigh na scoile agus a cuid seirbhísí tacaíochta gan dochar don scothchleachtas an Béarla agus teangacha ón iasacht a mhúineadh trí mheán na sprioctheanga.

Ciallaíonn 'oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge' go seachadtar an curaclam agus go ndéantar an teagasc ar fad sa scoil trí mheán na Gaeilge agus gurb í an Ghaeilge teanga oibre agus riaracháin inmheánaigh na scoile agus a cuid seirbhísí tacaíochta gan dochar don scothchleachtas an Béarla agus teangacha ón iasacht a mhúineadh trí mheán na sprioctheanga.

Tá ag 'údarás áitiúil' a chiall a dtugtar dó san Acht Rialtais Áitiúil 2001, mar atá leasaithe.

Dualgas an Aire i leith Plean Náisiúnta arna ullmhú faoi alt 31B

31C. (1) Déanfaidh an tAire—

(a) laistigh de 3 mhí ón bPlean Náisiúnta a fháil faoi alt 31B(1)(a)—

(i) an Plean Náisiúnta a cheadú gan mhodhnú nó fara cibé modhnuithe is riachtanach leis nó léi,

(ii) an dáta a thiocfaidh an Phlean Náisiúnta i ngníomh a shonrú, agus

(iii) an Plean Náisiúnta a chur faoi bhráid an Rialtais,

agus

(b) a luaithe is féidir ina dhiaidh sin—

(i) a chur faoi deara cóipeanna den Phlean Náisiúnta a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas, agus

(ii) cóip den Phlean Náisiúnta a fhoilsiú ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne Oideachais.

(2) Is é nó is í an tAire a bheidh freagrach as comhordú a dhéanamh agus as cur i ngníomh an Phlean agus déanfaidh sé nó sí, tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Meitheamh gach bliain, a chur faoi deara cóipeanna de thuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas maidir lena chuid oibre le linn na bliana roimhe sin maidir le comhordú agus as cur i ngníomh an Phlean agus cóipeanna den tuarascáil sin a fhoilsiú ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne Oideachais.

Tuarascáil an Tascfhórsa

31D. (1) Déanfaidh an Tascfhórsa, tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Meitheamh gach bliain, tuarascáil ar dhul chun cinn a sholáthar don Aire maidir lena chuid oibre le linn na bliana roimhe sin nó, i gcás na chéad tuarascála ar dhul chun cinn uaidh, maidir lena chuid oibre ón lá bunaithe suas go dtí an 31 Nollaig an bhliain ina dhiaidh sin agus an lá sin san áireamh.

(2) D'ainneoin fho-alt (1), féadfaidh an Tascfhórsa, ó am go ham, cibé faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh a fheidhmeanna a mheasfaidh sé is cuí a thabhairt don Aire agus tabharfaidh sé don Aire aon fhaisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh a fheidhmeanna a iarrfaidh an tAire.

(3) Déanfaidh an tAire, laistigh de 3 mhí ón tuarascáil dá dtagraítear i bhfo-alt (1) a fháil, í a chur faoi bhráid an Rialtais agus, a luaithe is féidir ina dhiaidh sin—

(a) a chur faoi deara cóipeanna den tuarascáil a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas, agus

(b) cóipeanna den tuarascáil a fhoilsiú ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne Oideachais."

Gearrtheideal, comhlua agus tosach feidhme

4. (1) Féadfar an tAcht Oideachais (Leasú), 2022 a ghairm den Acht seo.

(2) Féadfar na hAchtanna Oideachais, 1878 go 2022, a ghairm den Acht Oideachais 1998, de na hAchtanna Oideachais Idirmheánaigh (Éirinn), 1878 go 1924, agus den Acht seo le chéile agus forléireofar le chéile iad mar aon ní amháin.

(3) Tiocfaidh an tAcht seo i ngníomh cibé lá nó laethanta, nach déanaí ná sé mhí tar éis an tAcht seo a rith, a cheapfaidh an tAire Oideachais le hordú nó le horduithe i gcoitinne.

THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022

An Act to amend the Education Act 1998 and to provide for related matters.

[DD MM, 202X]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

Interpretation

1. In this Act "Principal Act" means the Education Act, 1998.

Amendment of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following sections after Section 31:

"Establishment of Taskforce"

- 31A.** (1) The Minister shall, by order, appoint a day to be the establishment day (in this Act referred to as the 'establishment day') for the purposes of this Act, and the establishment day shall be a day that is not later than 6 months after the passing of the Education (Amendment) Act 2022.
- (2) There shall stand established on the establishment day a committee to be known as the Taskforce to increase the provision of Irish Medium Education (in this Act referred to as 'Taskforce') whose working language shall be Irish and the secretariat and the executive functions of the Taskforce shall be provided by the Minister, which secretariat and executive functions shall be headed by an assistant secretary general of the Department of Education.
 - (3) The Taskforce shall consist of a Chairperson, vice chairperson, and not less than 12 and not more than 14 ordinary members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister and competent in the Irish language.
 - (4) The ordinary members of the Taskforce shall include —
 - (a) The chair of the body of persons established by the Minister pursuant to section 31 of this Act or his/her nominee.
 - (b) one member not below the rank of assistant secretary general nominated by the Minister as a representative of the Department of Education,
 - (c) one member not below the rank of principal officer nominated by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform as a representative of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform,
 - (d) one member from its senior management team nominated by the Teaching Council as a representative of the Teaching Council,
 - (e) not more than 3 other members, nominated by the Minister, following a process established by the Public Appointments Service, as representative of recognised School Patrons who provided Irish medium education at both primary and post-primary level with no more than one member for each patron.

- (f) not more than 2 other members nominated by the Minister as representatives of teacher training institutions as the Minister considers appropriate,
 - (g) one member, nominated by the Minister, following a process established by the Public Appointments Service, as a representative of Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas, and
 - (h) one member, nominated by the Minister, following a process established by the Public Appointments Service, as a representative of areas of the State that are not Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas.
 - (i) one member nominated by the Minister as representatives of lead organisations funded by Foras na Gaeilge, as the Minister considers appropriate.
- (5) A member of the Taskforce shall be subject to such terms and conditions and be paid such allowances for expenses as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, determine.
- (6) If the Chairperson is for any reason unable to continue to act as Chairperson, the Minister may designate another member of the Taskforce to act as Chairperson. The vice-chairperson shall fulfil the functions of the Chairperson as is necessary.
- (7) A member of the Taskforce shall hold office for such period not exceeding 4 years from the date of his or her appointment, as the Minister shall determine.
- (8) Subject to subsection (9), a member of the Taskforce whose term of office expires by the effluxion of time shall be eligible for reappointment to the Taskforce.
- (9) A member of the Taskforce who has served 2 consecutive terms of office shall not be eligible for reappointment to the Taskforce until a period of 4 years has elapsed following the end of the second consecutive term.
- (10) A member of the Taskforce may resign from the Taskforce by letter addressed to the Minister, and the resignation shall take effect on the date specified in the letter, or the date on which the Minister receives the letter, whichever is the later.
- (11) A member of the Taskforce may at any time be removed from membership of the Taskforce by the Minister if, in the Minister's opinion, the member has become incapable through ill-health of performing his or her functions, or has committed stated misbehaviour, or his or her removal appears to the Minister to be necessary for the effective performance by the Taskforce of its functions.
- (12) A member of the Taskforce shall cease to be, and shall be disqualified from being, a member of the Taskforce where such member—
- (a) on conviction on indictment by a court of competent jurisdiction is sentenced to a term of imprisonment, or
 - (b) is subject or is deemed to be subject to a disqualification order, within the meaning of Chapter 4 of Part 14 of the Companies Act 2014 , whether by virtue of that Chapter or any other provision of that Act.
- (13) The Taskforce shall determine its own rules of procedures.

- (14) Orders made under this section shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution annulling the order is passed by either such House within the next 21 days on which that House sits after the order is laid before it, the order shall be annulled accordingly, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.
- (15) In this section 'Gaeltacht Language Planning Area' has the same meaning as it has in Part 2 of the Gaeltacht Act 2012.

Functions of the Taskforce

- 31B.** (1) The Taskforce shall as soon as may be but not later than 1 year after the establishment day prepare and submit to the Minister for approval a National Plan for the increased provision of education through the medium of the Irish language (in this Act referred to as the 'National Plan') for a period specified in the National Plan (being not more than 6 years). The National Plan shall:
- (a) Include targets (to include timetables);
 - (b) Include measurable benchmarks against which the success of the strategy and progress towards targets can be assessed;
 - (c) Provide for periodic reviews to assess whether targets are being met
- (2) The Taskforce shall prepare each subsequent National Plan not earlier than 18 months, and not later than 6 months, before the expiration of the period specified in the National Plan and section 31C shall apply, with any necessary modifications, in relation to each subsequent National Plan as if any reference, to the National Plan, in that section were a reference to a subsequent National Plan.
- (3) The Taskforce shall, in performing its functions under this Act, have regard to the following objectives—
- (a) to increase the total number of pupils in Irish medium primary schools in the State as soon as practicable after the establishment day, but no later than 31 December 2040 to at least 20 per cent;
 - (b) without prejudice to the generality of subsection (a) particular attention shall be paid to those local authority areas or parts of local authority areas where the number of pupils in Irish medium primary schools represents less than 20 per cent of all primary school pupils;
 - (c) to increase the total number of pupils in Irish medium post-primary schools in the State as soon as practicable after the establishment day, but no later than 31 December 2040 to at least 20 per cent;
 - (d) without prejudice to the generality of subsection (c) particular attention shall be paid to those local authority areas or parts of local authority areas where the number of pupils in Irish medium post-primary schools represents less than 20 per cent of all post-primary school pupils;
 - (e) In drawing up the plan, the Taskforce shall have regard to submissions made by school patrons, parents and other interested parties, including the Minister, evidencing unmet local demand for Irish medium education and such submissions shall be sought at the beginning of the period for the drawing up of the plan;

- (f) In drawing up the plan, the Taskforce shall make every effort to ensure that Irish medium schools are representative of Irish society as a whole in all its diversity;
- (g) In drawing up the plan, the Taskforce shall make every effort to ensure that Irish medium schools cater for pupils with special or additional educational needs;
- (h) to expand Irish medium provision at tertiary level to support sufficient teacher supply for Irish medium education at primary and post-primary level, in particular the increase in provision pursuant to sub-sections (a) and (c);
- (i) to ensure that supports and resources available in Irish for Irish medium schools are at a level and of a standard not disadvantageous in comparison with supports and resources available in English.
- (j) to set out the estimated costings, both capital and current regarding the implementation of the plan.

And the Taskforce shall consult with the body of persons established by the Minister pursuant to section 31 of this Act and with whatever other persons the Taskforce considers appropriate in relation to the performance of its functions.

- (4) The Taskforce shall have all such powers as are necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions.
- (5) In this section—

‘Irish medium education’ means where the curriculum is delivered, and all teaching is done in the school through the medium of Irish, and where Irish is the language of work and internal administration of the school and of its support services without prejudice to the best practice of teaching English and foreign languages through the target language.

‘Irish medium post-primary school’ means a post-primary school where the curriculum is delivered and all teaching is done in the school through the medium of Irish, and where Irish is the language of work and internal administration of the school and of its support services without prejudice to the best practice of teaching English and foreign languages through the target language.

‘Irish medium primary school’ means a primary school where the curriculum is delivered, and all teaching is done in the school through the medium of Irish, and where Irish is the language of work and internal administration of the school and of its support services without prejudice to the best practice of teaching English and foreign languages through the target language.

‘local authority’ has the meaning assigned to it by the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Duty of Minister in respect of National Plan prepared under section 31B

31C. (1) The Minister shall—

- (a) within 3 months of receiving the National Plan under section 31B(1)(a)—
 - (i) approve the National Plan without modification or with such modifications as he or she considers necessary ,

(ii) specify the date on which the National Plan will come into operation,
and

(iii) submit the National Plan to the Government,

and

(b) as soon as may be thereafter—

(i) cause copies of the National Plan to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas, and

(ii) publish a copy of the National Plan on the website of the Department of Education.

(2) The Minister shall be responsible for the co-ordination and the implementation of the Plan and shall not later than 30 June of each year, cause a progress report to be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas with regard to his or her work on the co-ordination and the implementation of the Plan during the preceding year and publish copies of that report on the website of the Department of Education.

Report of the Taskforce

31D. (1) The Taskforce shall, not later than 30 June of each year, provide a progress report to the Minister with regard to its work during the preceding year or, in the case of its first progress report, its work from the establishment day up to and including 31 December of the following year.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Taskforce may, from time to time, furnish to the Minister such information about the performance of its functions as it considers appropriate and shall furnish to the Minister any information about the performance of its functions requested by the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall, within 3 months of receiving the report referred to in subsection (1) present it to the Government and, as soon as may be thereafter—

(a) cause copies of the report to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas,
and

(b) publish copies of the report on the website of the Department of Education.”

Short title, collective citation and commencement

3. (1) This Act may be cited as the Education (Amendment) Act 2022.

(2) The Education Act 1998 and this Act, together with the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Acts 1878 and 1924, may be cited together as the Education Acts 1878 to 2022.

(3) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days, not later than six months after the passing of this Act, as the Minister for Education may by order or orders appoint.