

## Support For Learning Irish and Other Languages

Students with Dyslexia often struggle to acquire the reading and writing aspects of other languages, due to the complexity of the different phonological rules and orthographic depth in each language. English is one of the most complex languages, and while Irish orthography is not as deep as English, it is not considered to be a transparent language.

Not every student with Dyslexia will be entitled to apply for an exemption from the study of Irish, as this will depend on their level of Dyslexia. Like English, students with Dyslexia typically have no problems with the aural and oral aspects of Irish but struggle with the reading and writing aspects. Here are some strategies and resources that may help children with Dyslexia when studying Irish and other languages.

- Try to focus on speaking and listening. By immersing oneself into the language one is more likely to enjoy it and feel more motivated to learn it.
- Watch Irish television programme in order to become more proficient in the various dialects and increase vocabulary.
- Building sight words in Irish will give students a large sight word vocabulary, so that are not dependent on decoding. See [scoilnet.ie](http://scoilnet.ie) for resources that help build sight word vocabulary through games, as well as [twinkl.co.uk](http://twinkl.co.uk) for lists of the most common sight words.
- A mnemonic approach to learning vocabulary can help dyslexic students get the first 300-400 words into long-term memory. It entails finding a word in your native language that sounds like the target foreign word. If you can't find just one, look for several. The most important factor is that both words start with the same sound. Next, create an anecdote and visualize it to connect the meaning of the word that sounds similar to the meaning of the foreign word.
- Some people find it easier to remember a word if they associate it with a visual image or picture. Try putting pictures next to the words and the picture may be recalled faster than the actual word.
- Use flashcards to help memorise vocabulary.
- To help with remembering word order, put the words onto a card, cut up the card into separate pieces, mix them up and practise putting them back together again.

## Irish Websites to Support Learning the Irish Language

- Fuaim-U and Fuaim-C are Irish phonics apps that follow a phonics programme for children learning to read and spell in Irish. They begin with basic CVC words and progress to longer words. Available from: <https://bit.ly/2FG4qtj>
- <https://www.scoilnet.ie>: This website contains several resources to aid with learning Irish at different levels.
- [http://www.schooldays.ie/articles/irish-apps-for-kids](http://www schooldays.ie/articles/irish-apps-for-kids): This website contains a list of useful apps to support children learning Irish.
- <https://www.abair.tcd.ie> works as an Irish language Synthesiser – translating written text into spoken words. This can be helpful for pronunciation or in order to listen to pieces of text rather than read it.

## Useful Websites/Apps for Language Learning

- [www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com) (also iOS and Android). This site provides interactive learning of languages in progressive stages with extensive writing and diction exercises. Languages include Irish, French, Spanish, German and Italian.
- [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com) (also iOS and Android). Memrise focuses on teaching languages to students and uses visual flashcards to help them remember words and phrases for many different languages. Although the app focuses on languages it can be used to learn geography, history and sciences.
- [Think bilingual!](#) (iOS). This App guides the learner to *think* in the target language through immersion in real-life situations. The current version is free.