Polasaí Idirchreidmheachais

An Foras Pátrúnachta

POLASAÍ DÁTHEANGACH

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An Sainmheon Idirchreidmheach
Review of Interdenominational Characteristic Spirit

1. <u>Cúlra</u>

1.1. Tá 15 scoil idirchreidmheach faoi phátrúnacht An Foras Pátrúnachta i láthair na huaire. Tá sé de dhualgas ar na scoileanna seo dhá chlár creidimh ina n-iomlán a mhúineadh le linn am scoile. Ó thús ama, bhí deacrachtaí ag na scoileanna an sainmheon agus an cleachtas a bhaineann leis an sainmheon a chur chun cinn. Cuireadh treoir do mhúinteoirí le chéile i 2007. Rinneadh suirbhé ar na scoileanna i 2009 uair a thug na scoileanna a dtuairimí faoi na buntáistí agus na dúshláin a bhaineann leis an sainmheon.

2. *Background*

2.1. *There are 15 interdenominational schools under the patronage of An Foras Patrúnachta at present. It is the responsibility of the school to cover two religious education syllabi during school hours. Since the foundation of these schools difficulties have arisen with the definition of the characteristic spirit and the associated practice. Guidelines for teachers were compiled in 2007. The schools were surveyed in 2009 and a subsequent report highlighted the advantages and challenges facing these schools.*

3. <u>An Coincheap</u>

3.1 Coincheap nua a bhí i gceist leis na scoileanna idirchreidmheacha. Bunaíodh iad chun rogha níos leithne a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí ó thaobh sainmheon de. Tháinig an smaoineamh chun cinn le linn tréimhse Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta uair a bhí an iolrachas agus an éacúiméineachas go mór i mbéal an phobail. Bhí an tuairim ann go mbeadh na scoileanna idirchreidmheacha níos tarraingtí do chuid den phobal nach raibh bá acu don Ghaeilge go stairiúl freisin.

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3.2 Tá scoil amháin faoi chomhphátrúnacht an Eaglais Chaitliceach Rómhánach agus Eaglais na hÉireann. Osclaíodh an scoil seo i 2008 agus glactar leis mar chomhartha go raibh na heaglaisí éagsúla sásta leis an sainmheon. Tá 40 bunscoil chomhtháite ó thuaidh, áit a ndéantar páistí ó na sainchreidimh éagsúla a mhúineadh le chéile cé go bhfuil cothromaíocht ann ó thaobh an líon daltaí a thagann ó na sainchreidimh éagsúla, comhdhéanamh na mBord &rl. Bíonn oideachas reiligiún bainteach le sainchreidimh amháin ó aois a 7 ar aghaidh.

4. The Concept

4.1. *Interdenominational schools were a new concept. They were founded in order to give parents an extra choice with regard to a school's characteristic spirit. The idea came about during the time of the Good Friday Agreement when the values of tolerance, ecumenism and pluralism came to the fore. It was also believed that the schools would prove attractive to members of the community who would previously not have much affinity with the Irish language. The churches were not consulted with regard to their views on interdenominational education before the first school was founded.*

4.2. *One gaelscoil exists under the co-patronage of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland. This school was opened in 2008 and was understood by many as a signal that the interdenominational ethos was acceptable. 40 'integrated' schools operate in the North. These schools differ somewhat from interdenominational schools having equal representation from both traditions in school structures and pupil numbers. Religious instruction is also denominational from age 7 onwards.*

5. <u>Na Dúshláin:</u>

5.1.1. Tá an sainmheon reatha, atá glactha ag an bhForas ó 2002, míshásúil mar atá.

5.1.2. Tá sé dodhéanta an dá chlár ina n-iomlán a mhúineadh ach go háirithe sna hardranganna.

5.1.3. Tá easpa treoir do mhúinteoirí mar aon le heaspa ábhar ar fhorbairt profisiúnta ar fáil.

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5.1.4. Tá deacracht múinteoirí, daltaí agus cléir ón dá thraidisiún a mhealladh chuig na scoileanna.

6. *Challenges*
   - *6.1.1. The current definition (2002) in use by the patron needs to be updated.*
   - *6.1.2. It is impossible to teach the two religious programmes in full - especially in senior classes.*
   - *6.1.3. There is a lack of direction and professional development for teachers in interdenominational education.*
   - *6.1.4. Difficulty attracting staff, pupils and clergy from both traditions to our schools*

7. <u>**Aidhmeanna na hAthbhreithnithe:**</u>

   - **7.1.** Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an sainmheon scríofa atá ag na scoileanna idirchreidmheacha
   - **7.2.** Na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann le dea-chleachtas a iniúchadh
   - **7.3.** Na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann le gaol níos fearr a chothú leis an bparóiste a iniúchadh
   - **7.4.** Na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann le forbairt profisiúnta na múinteoirí a iniúchadh

8. ***Aims of the Review***

   - ***8.1.*** *Review the written definition of an interdenominational school*
   - ***8.2.*** *To explore opportunities with regard to practice*
   - ***8.3.*** *To explore opportunities in improving relationships with the schools local parishes*
   - ***8.4.*** *To explore opportunities for professional development of teachers.*

9. <u>**Sainmheon**</u>

Moltar an sainmheon atá ag an bhForas dá scoileanna a athrú (ionchur ón gcléir, Bord an Fhorais, príomhoidí de dhíth) mar shampla:

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> 'Feidhmeoidh scoileanna le sainchreideamh Idirchreidmheach faoi Fhoras Pátrúnachta na Scoileanna Lánghaeilge Teo. le sainmheon Chríostúil a chothóidh an bheatha Chríostaí i saol na scoile spreagtha ag creideamh i nDia agus luachanna an tSoiscéil léirithe trí phaidreoireacht, ceiliúradh agus na sacraimintí i gcomhair leis na tuismitheoirí, an paróiste agus an pobal.'

Spreagfar tuiscint, inghlacthacht agus caoinfhulaingt i measc an scoilphobal uilig i dtaobh na difríochtaí agus na cosúlachtaí a bhaineann leis na sainchreidimh Chríostaí.

9.1. Leanfar na siollabais reatha cuí (Beo go Deo agus Follow Me) taobh istigh d'am scoile.
9.2. Déanfar ranganna reiligiúin a mhúineadh mar chomhbhuíon ach d'fhéadfadh grúpobair nó rang faoi leith a bhaineann le sainchreidimh amháin a chur ar fáil ó Rang 2 ar aghaidh uair sa tseachtain.
9.3. Déanfar páistí atá mar bhall den Eaglais Chaitliceach Rómhánach a réitiú do na sacramintí le linn am scoile agus cuirfear fáilte roimh phobal na scoile ina n-iomlán a bheith páirteach sa cheiliúradh.
9.4. D'fhéadfadh na scoileanna deiseanna adhartha i nGaeilge atá ionadaíoch ar an bpobal scoile a chur chun cinn.
9.5. Tabharfar aitheantas agus spreagfar an ról agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le tuismitheoirí i bhforbairt chreidimh a bpáiste.
9.6. Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhairleoirí deoise agus an cléir áitiúil sa scoil chun tacaíocht, comhairle agus cabhair a thabhairt do na daltaí, do na Boird Bhainistíochta, don fhoireann scoile agus do na tuismitheoirí.
9.7. Beidh dualgas ar gach scoil a bpolasaí agus a gcleachtas féin i dtaobh an idirchreidmheachais a fhorbairt a luíonn leis an ráiteas seo.

10. Definition

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The definition of the schools needs to change (input from patronage, clergy, principals required) eg:

> *The schools with an interdenominational characteristic spirit will operate with a Christian ethos inspired by belief in God and Gospel values and expressed through prayer, worship and the sacraments in co-operation with parents, the local parishes and the community.*
> *Understanding, tolerance and acceptance of different Christian traditons will be fostered amongst the whole school community.*

10.1. *The current syllabi (Beo go Deo and Follow Me) will be taught during school hours.*

10.2. *Religious instruction will take place in unison but groupwork and/or classes in a specific denomination may take place from Rang 2 onwards but no more than once a week.*

10.3. *Children who are members of the Roman Catholic Church will be prepared for sacraments during school hours and the whole school community are welcome to share in the celebration.*

10.4. *The role and importance of parents as the primary faith teacher of the child will be recognised and encouraged.*

10.5. *The school may provide opportunities for worship through Irish which are representative of the school community.*

10.6. *Diocesan advisors and local clergy are welcome to the school to assist or advise pupils, teachers, parents and the Board of Management with regard to religious instruction.*

10.7. *All school are advised to develop a policy and practice document in relation to the interdenominational aspects of school life which adheres to the above.*

11. Cleachtas

11.1 I láthair na huaire tá teagasc reiligiún á mhúineadh sna scoileanna mar chomhbhuíon. Ní thugann sé seo cothrom na féinne do na daltaí agus cuireann sé

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brú ar mhúinteoirí dhá chlár teagaisc a mhúineadh. Toisc go bhfuil Beo go Deo ar fáil i nGaeilge agus toisc go bhfuil níos mó Caitlicigh Romhánacha sna scoileanna tá an claonadh ann díriú ar an gclár Caitliceach. Is beag múinteoir a bhfuil oiliúint faighte acu i CICE ach oiread nó fiú cuairt tugtha acu ar shéipeál de chuid Eaglais an hÉireann riamh.

11.2 I dtreo na deacrachtaí seo a sheachaint is féidir ranganna sainchreidimh a chur ar fáil uair sa seachtain ó Rang a 2 ar aghaidh. D'fhéadfadh múinteoir amháin, an príomhoide nó múinteoir tacaíocht foghlama an rang seo a mhúineadh. Ní gá go mbeadh sé riachtanach do scoileanna ach tabharfaidh sé ar a laghad an saoirse do scoileanna freastal cuí a dhéanamh ar an sainchreidimh atá mar mhionlach sa scoil.

11.3 Leis sin, ba chóir go mbeadh polasaí idirchreidmheach ag gach scoil sa chaoi go mbeidh pobal na scoile tuisceanach agus báúil do na nósanna imeachta a bhaineann le cursaí creidimh sa scoil agus ina measc:

- páistí ó sainchreidimh difrúla ag freastal ar na sacramintí
- céiliúradh aifrinne sa scoil
- an cléir ag guí leis na páistí agus ag beannú na bpáistí
- adhradh éacúiméineach
- tacú le carthanachtaí atá bainteach le traidisiúin éagsúla m.sh. Christian Aid agus Trócaire

Is gá ionchur a fháil ón gcléír áitiúil ar an gceist seo.

12. Practice

12.1 *At present religious instruction is given in unison. As Beo go Deo is published in Irish teachers will tend to use this programme more. There is also a much higher number of RC pupils in all interdenominational schools which means that teachers will tend to use this programme more. Very few teachers have completed any inservice or pre-service training in 'Follow Me' and in fact many have never even visited a church*

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other than a RC one. It is also proving impossible to cover two programmes completely.

12.2 *A change of practice is being recommended in that a denominational class may be offered from second class. One teacher, the principal or a learning support teacher could assist. Schools do not have to provide this class (eg schools where only children from one denomination are enrolled) but at least it would give schools the freedom to facilitate minority religious instruction.*

12.3 *All schools should have an interdenominational policy so that the whole school community is familiar and supportive of practices with regard to religion in the school including:*

- *children from different traditions attending sacramental celebrations*
- *Mass and other forms of worship in the school*
- clergy visiting the school from different denominations, leading whole school worship and/or interacting with children
- *ecumenical dimension*
- *supporting charitable organisations from different traditions eg Christian Aid and Trócaire*

13. Gaol níos fearr leis an bParóiste

13.1 Ba chóir don Fhoras teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an easpag i ngach deoise a bhfuil scoil idirchreidmheach ann agus socraithe foirmeáilte a dhéanamh leo nó na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann leis i dtaobh freastal ar na scoileanna idirchreidmheacha a iniúchadh. Ba chóir saincheisteanna ar nós airgeadas, séiplíneacht &rl. a chíoradh agus a aontú. Níl sé cothrom an obair seo a fhágáil faoi na príomhoidí nó na Boird Bhainistíochta.

13.2 Moltar go láidir teagmháil foirmeáilte a dhéanamh le Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (Eaglais na hÉireann) i dtreo féidearthachtaí comhoibrithe agus tacaíochta a iniúchadh.

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14. Improving links with the Parish

14.1 *The patron needs to contact the bishop of every diocese where there is an interdenominational school to make formal arrangements or the possibility of the same with regard to facilitating interdenominational school. Issues such as finance, chaplaincy etc. should be discussed and agreed. This contact and arrangements should not be left to principals and to Board of Management.*

14.2 *Formal contact should be made with 'Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise' in order to explore opportunities for co-operation and support with the Church of Ireland.*

15. Forbairt Phrofisiúnta na Múinteoirí

15.1 Ba chóir go mbeadh cóip de na treoirlíntí a thabhairt do gach múinteoir i nGaelscoil idirchreidmheach.

15.2 Cúrsa Samhraidh san idirchreidmheachas a chur ar fáil má tá cead a leithéid a dhéanamh.

15.3 Lá inseirbhíse do na scoileanna idirchreidmheacha (ní ar an Satharn)

15.4 Athnascadh a dhéanamh le Bord Oideachais Eaglais na hÉireann agus na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann le acmhainní, comhairle &rl. curtha ar fáil do scoileanna a phlé.

15.5 Seirbhísí ar nós Ceiliúradh an Fhómhair/tionól &rl. a bheith curtha ar fáil do na scoileanna (trí Ghaeilge).

16. Professional Development of Teachers

16.1 *Every interdenominational school and teacher should have a copy of the interdenominational guidelines.*

16.2 *Summer courses for teachers*

16.3 *Inservice day for the interdenominational schools*

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16.4 *Re-establish links with the Church of Ireland Board of Education and discuss opportunities in regard to resources, guidance for schools, inservice etc.*

16.5 *Common worship services suitable for schools to be made available. Schools to be made aware of the following resources available on line:*

*www.**ireland**.anglican.org – most of the Book of Common Prayer translated to Irish as well as information about the Church of Ireland www.gaeleaglais.ie – information about the Irish language in the Church of Ireland as well as many common prayers 'as Gaeilge' and phonetically written for people who don't speak Irish (excellent for all traditions)*

http://www.assemblies.org.uk : Loads of ideas for school worship which can be easily translated to Irish