



***Bua na Cainte* and the new Primary Language Curriculum**

Highlighted below is a summary of how ***Bua na Cainte*** meets the key recommendations of the **new Primary Language Curriculum**.

Bua na Cainte enables teachers to **implement the basic principles** of the Primary Language Curriculum (Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile) in a **practical** manner in their classrooms.

1. The Primary Language Curriculum:

- *Aims to engage teachers and learners and to support **positive dispositions** toward language and literacy.*

Bua na Cainte has a proven track record in enabling teachers to achieve a positive disposition towards the teaching and learning of Irish every day in the classroom. ***Bua na Cainte*** has been more successful than any other programme to date in achieving this aim. ***Bua na Cainte*** was awarded the European Language Label of the Year Award 2015 and the Accenture Digital Media Award 2016.

- *Supports teachers to help children to **progress in their language learning and development** through the primary years.*

Bua na Cainte enables teachers to achieve this with their classes. ***Bua na Cainte*** sets out clearly what progression the child is expected to achieve in each lesson, in each theme and at each class level.

2. *There is a change from content objectives to **Learning Outcomes**. Learning Outcomes are used to describe the expected language learning and development for children at the end of a two year period.*

- **Bua na Cainte** lists the Language Functions (Feidhmeanna Teanga) with corresponding Language Exemplars (Eiseamláirí Teanga) in each lesson to enable the teacher to ensure that the children achieve the desired **Learning Outcomes** in each lesson. (Torthaí Foghlama)
- **Bua na Cainte** helps teachers take small steps each day to ensure the children progress on their language learning journey to achieve the Learning Outcomes at the end of the two-year period.
- At the end of each lesson in **Bua na Cainte** the teacher is reminded in the Measúnú section of the expected Learning Outcome of the lesson.

3. *The **Strands** of the Primary Language Curriculum are Oral Language, Reading & Writing. The strands Listening and Speaking have been replaced with **Oral Language**. Listening and understanding is a very important part of developing the children's communicative competence in Oral Language in Gaeilge particularly in the Infant classes in the primary Language Curriculum.*

Bua na Cainte helps the teacher to progress in each strand. **Bua na Cainte** means the gift of Oral Language. The main aim of **Bua na Cainte** at Infant level is to develop the children's competency in **Oral Language**.

Reading and **writing** are taught in a very structured way in **Bua na Cainte**.

In **Bua na Cainte 1** and **2**, The teacher can turn the text on/off onscreen. This enables the teacher to start **reading** and **writing** when the children are ready for this progression. The language the children read is language they have learned previously in Oral language classes. The consonants are taught in first class. The short and long vowels are taught in second class.

4. *The Primary Language Curriculum emphasises **linking the strands** [Oral Language, Reading and Writing]*

All of the strands are linked in **Bua na Cainte**.

The Primary Language Curriculum emphasises integration across curriculum subjects - Content Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)

Bua na Cainte integrates Gaeilge with other subjects. (Music, Drama, Maths, PE, SPHE, SESE, etc.)

5. *The strand units have been replaced with **elements**:*

- **Communicating**

The communicative approach to language teaching underpins each lesson in the **Bua na Cainte** programme. **Bua na Cainte** stimulates children's interest in each lesson and encourages children to communicate effectively.

- **Understanding the content and structure of language**

The attractive animations in **Bua na Cainte** enable children to understand the content in each conversation.

The language in **Bua na Cainte** is graded carefully and the children are encouraged to develop their language by noticing the structure and patterns of the Irish language. Noticing patterns of language is a very useful skill as it helps children to create their own sentences independently.

- **Exploring and using language**

The children are encouraged to use and create language in each lesson of **Bua na Cainte**, in the communicative phase of the lesson and throughout the school day.

6. *The Primary Language Curriculum emphasises **Progression Continua**. This involves in broad terms, milestones and steps in a child's journey in his/her language learning and development.*

Bua na Cainte has assessment tasks in every theme in **Bua na Cainte** to help teachers to assess what milestones children have achieved and what steps the child needs to take to progress their language development.

7. *The Primary Language Curriculum emphasises the importance of working with children whose learning and development may **progress at a different level or rate to their peers**.*

Bua na Cainte enables teachers to **differentiate the content** by completing language learning tasks and playing games at different levels to challenge certain children and to consolidate material with other children.

8. *The Primary Language Curriculum emphasises the importance of using Gaeilge informally throughout the school day. [**Úsáid neamhfhoirmiúil na Gaeilge**]*

Bua na Cainte emphasises the importance of this in each lesson. In the Caint an Ranga section of each lesson, language that can be used throughout the school day by the teacher and children is outlined clearly.

9. *The Primary Language Curriculum emphasises the importance of providing **adequate exposure to language and adequate opportunities to engage with the language**.*

Bua na Cainte provides **rich exposure** to the Irish language through a wide variety of **songs, poems, rhymes, stories, animated conversations and games**. **Bua na Cainte** stimulates the children's interest also in communicating and **provides a range of opportunities** for the children to engage with the language.