



**REVISION TO CIRCULAR 12/96 ON THE EXEMPTION FROM
THE STUDY OF IRISH**

**TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPALS OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO FORWARD EXEMPTION
CERTIFICATES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

I am directed by the Minister for Education and Science to advise you of a change to Circular 12/96.

This change relates to the seventh bullet point of paragraph 4 of Circular 12/96. From the start of the school year 2009/2010 where exemptions from Irish are granted by a school within the terms of the Circular 12/96, there is no longer a requirement for a school to submit a copy of the Certificate of Exemption from Irish to the Department. Instead, a copy of the Certificate and supporting documentation must be retained by the school and be available for inspection by authorised officers of the Department. **A copy must also be given to the parent or guardian of the pupil being exempted.**

As a consequence of this procedural change, school management will be required to provide statistical information relating to the number of exemptions granted under Circular 12/96 in the **previous school year** as part of the annual Primary school census, commencing with this year's census.

Further enquiries in relation to this letter or Circular 12/96 should be addressed to the Department of Education and Science, Parents, Learners and Database Section, Schools Division, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, telephone 090 6484263/ 090 6484269.

Brian Brogan
Principal Officer

June, 2009