

# IRISH SCHOOLS TOP AT ENGLISH

## Gaelic kids better at maths as well

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**IRISH language primary schools are outperforming English language schools not only in maths but in English, figures have revealed.**

The Department of Education research indicate that children in Gaelic schools do better than children from similar economic backgrounds in English-medium schools.

The news comes after several Irish schools were criticised by inspectors as being below standard.

The results were revealed in Key Stage Two assessments submitted each year by all primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Dr Reamai Mathers from the support organisation for Irish-medium schools, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, said: "The recent reports in the press in relation to schools across all sectors placed an extremely unfair emphasis on Irish-medium schools.

"These latest figures highlight that children who attend Irish-medium schools, such as those in the mentioned

**▶ HEAD OF THE CLASS**  
Children at Gaelscoil an Chaistil in Ballycastle, Co Antrim



**3,000**

Children are educated at Irish-medium primary schools in Northern Ireland

**FINDINGS**

Key Stage Two assessments revealed they did better at the two subjects

in the recent press reports, are in fact out-performing their English-medium counterparts in the two most important aspects of the primary curriculum, English and maths."

He added the findings support research carried out at Queen's University which indicated children in Irish-medium schools have better short-term and working memory when compared to their English-medium counterparts. Dr Mathers said: "Short-term memory

and working memory are of central importance in all aspects of learning.

"Tasks such as reading, reasoning and mental arithmetic rely on these.

"Researchers believe these superior results are due to what may be called 'the bilingual advantage', with children who are fluent in two languages having a greater amount of mental agility."

Almost 3,000 children attend more than 30 Irish-medium primary schools in Northern Ireland.

## Gr8 news for model winners

By VICTORIA McMAHON THE winners of the "Face Of DV8" model search were unveiled yesterday following months of competition.

Hundreds of wannabe models fought it out for the coveted crowns.

Helder Afonso, 23, who lives in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, and 17-year-old Carys Magill, an art student from Belfast, captured the top spots.

They will represent the DV8 brand in all its press, advertising and online campaigns for the next 12 months.

The pair will also receive contracts with leading model agency Alison Campbell Models, receive £500 worth of DV8 clothes vouchers and have their hair styled by award-winning salon Paul Stafford Hairdressing for the year.



▼ HAIR-RAISING Winners  
Helder Afonso and Carys Magill



▲ THE LOOK Helder and Carys, right, with the runners up

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