

# Irish Language Week

1st March – 17th March 2022

## IRISH LANGUAGE

According to 2011 UK census, in Northern Ireland 184,898 (10.65%) residents are reported to have some knowledge of the Irish language.

The Census also states 104,943 (6.05%) can speak the language.

## Irish Language local history

Lisburn was originally known as 'Lisnagarvey' which is derived from Irish Lios na gCearrbhach meaning ringfort of the gamesters. Castlereagh was named after the barony of Castlereagh, from the Irish An Caislean Riabhach meaning Grey Castle.

## What type of language is Irish?

Irish is a Celtic language which comes from Old Irish. The Celtic languages are believed to have come from Common Celtic, which originated from Indo-European.

## IRISH WRITING

### When did the writing of Irish start?

The oldest remains of written Irish that we have are inscriptions on Ogham stones from the 5th and 6th centuries. Irish was first written in the Roman alphabet before the beginning of the 7th century which makes Irish the oldest written vernacular language north of the Alps.

### Irish vowels can be used in two different ways

They can be written with or without an acute accent (a fada). This means that an A can also be written as Á or á. The word fada translates as 'long' and that's exactly what the accent does to the vowel. It gives it a longer, more stressed sound. For ú: think ooh. And for u: think uh.

## COMMON WORDS AND PHRASE

- aon = one (a-n)
- dó = two (doe)
- trí = three (tree)
- ceathair = four (cah-her)
- cúig = five (coo-igg)
- sé = six (shay)
- seacht = seven (shocked)
- ocht = eight (uk-ed)
- naoi = nine (knee)
- deich = ten (de)
- céad = one hundred
- dhá chéad = two hundred
- Dia Dhuit = Hello  
(literal translation is "God be with you")
- Céad Mile Fáilte =  
One hundred thousand welcomes
- Ceist ag éinne? = Anyone have a question?
- Éire = Ireland
- go maith = good
- Slán = goodbye
- Leabhar = book
- Madra = dog