



Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

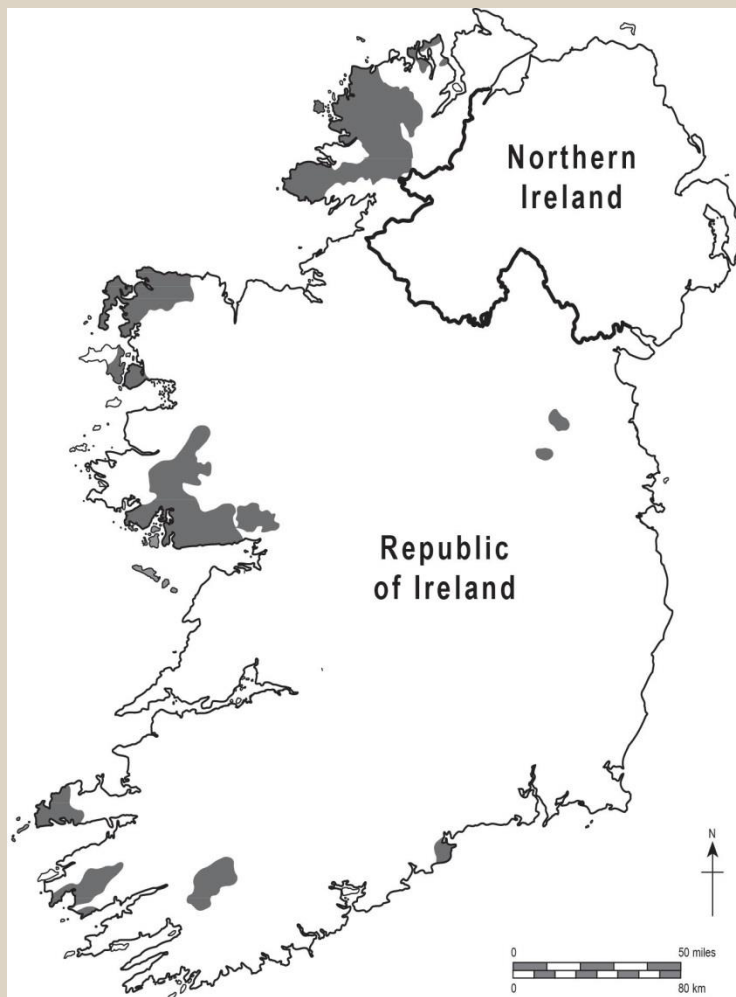
Challenges and opportunities in Irish immersion education

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Institiúid Oideachais

Context, enrolment and demand



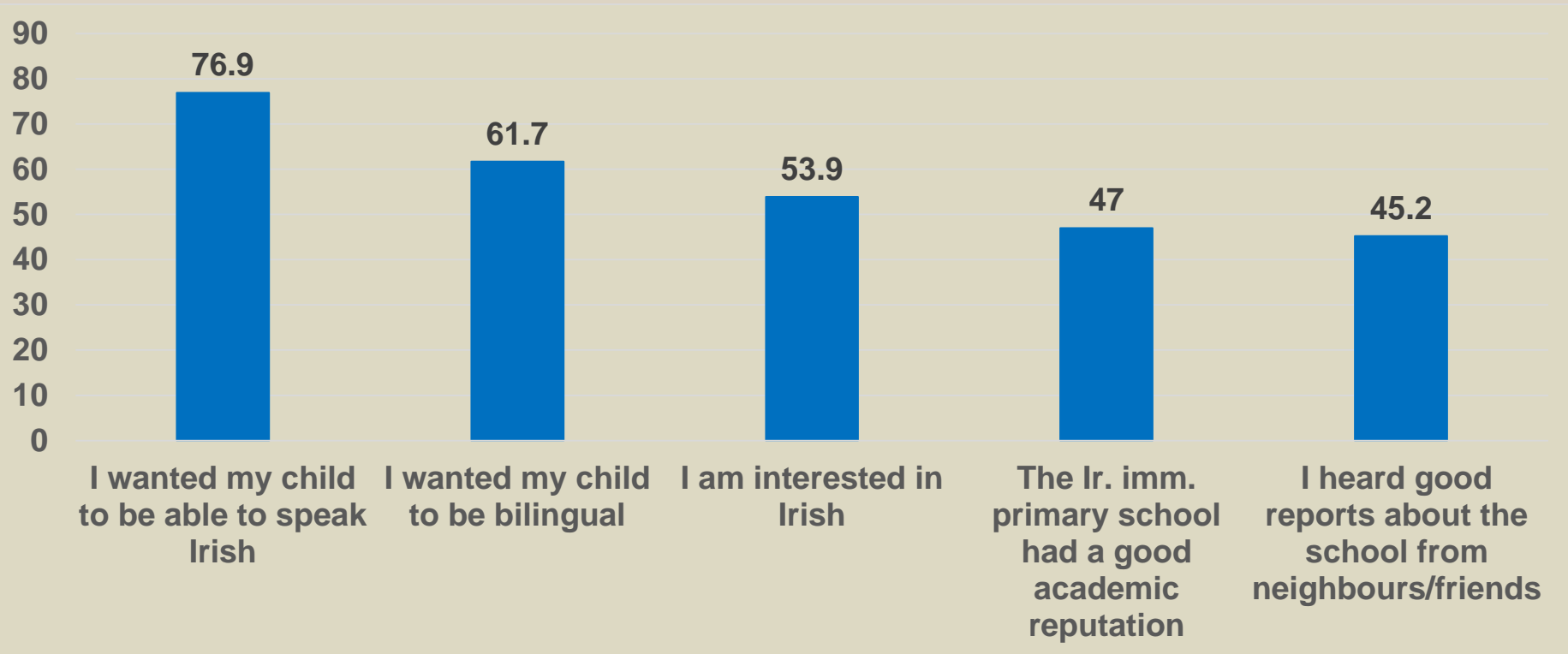
	Schools	Students	% total students
Primary immersion	179	41,000	5.84%
Post-primary immersion	48	11,000	2.14%

Number of primary schools able to satisfy student demand	No of primary schools who had to refuse entry to students	No response	Number of students refused entry due to lack of places
73/143	55/143	15/143	1,656

Progression rates from Irish immersion primary to post-primary schools (Principals)

	Grade 6 students 2014	Number of Grade 6 students in 2014 who progressed to Irish immersion post-primary school	% transfer
All schools	764	307	40.2%
Schools without Irish immersion post-primary school within catchment area	225	18	8.0%
Schools with Irish immersion post-primary school within catchment area	539	289	53.6%

Parental motivation to choose primary immersion education (n=321 Grade 6, Rol)

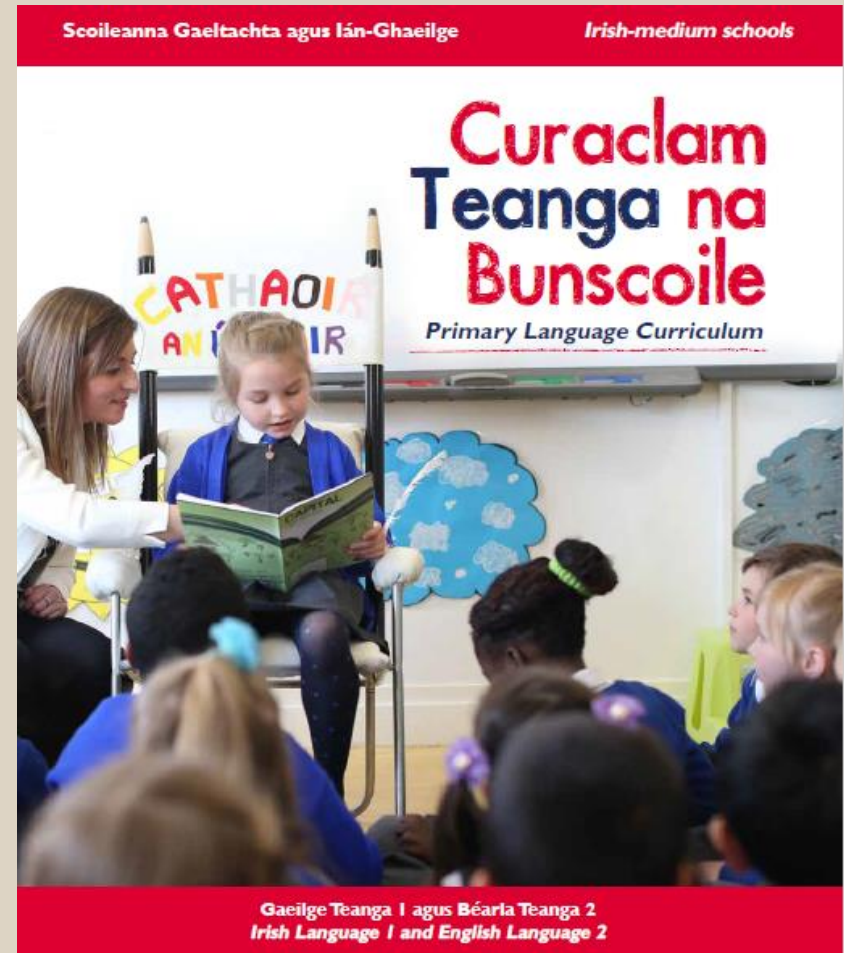


Are you happy with the educational and language experience that your child has had to date? (Grade 6, Rol parents n=315)

Yes	312	99%
No	3	1%

School curricula

- New Primary Language curriculum that recognises needs of immersion learners and allows for total early immersion of up to two years
- Junior Cycle post-primary (age 12-15) – separate specification to be introduced for immersion learners

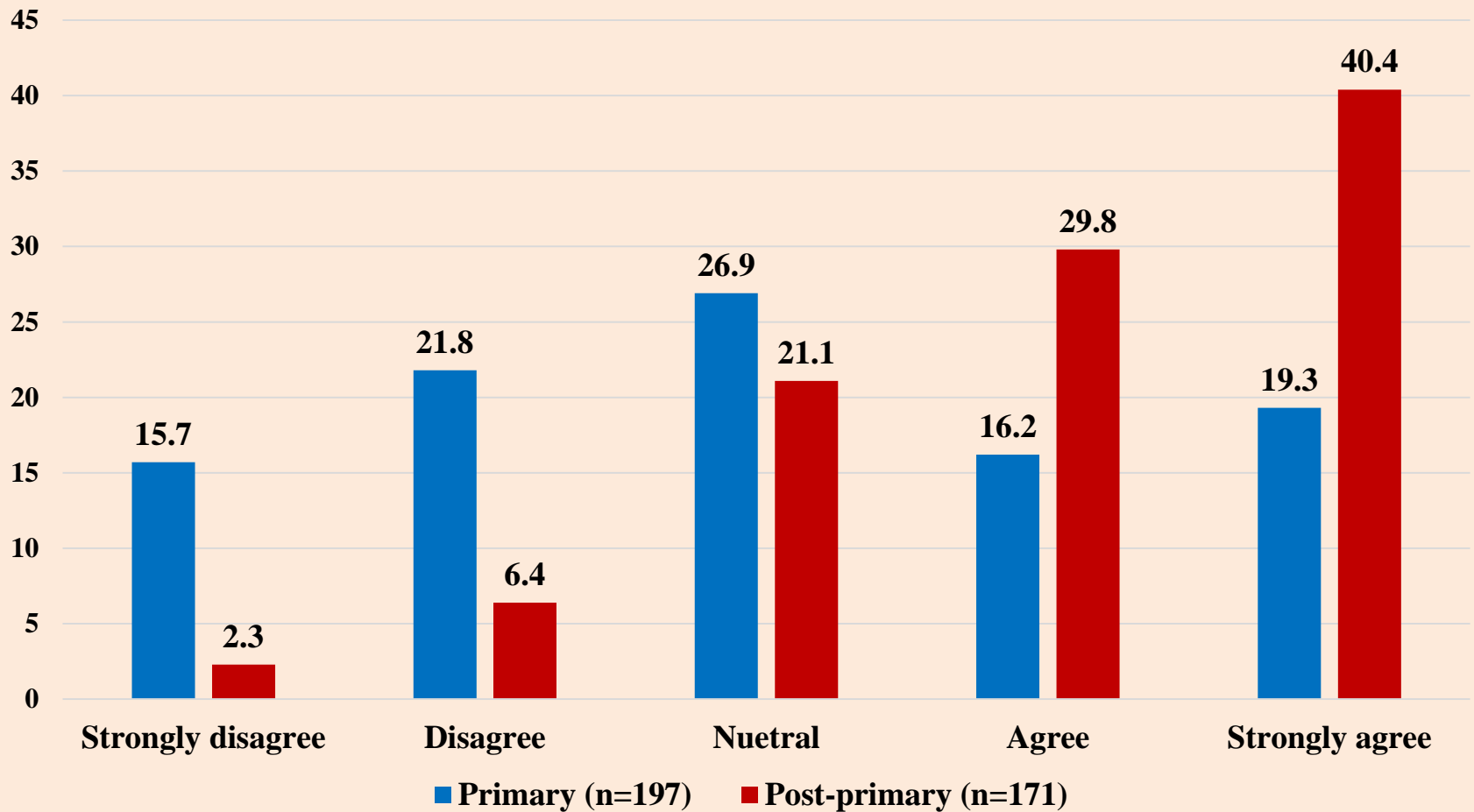


Immersion teacher education

- No mandatory qualifications required to teach in immersion programmes at elementary or high-school
- Elective modules on elementary pre-service programmes
- Taught masters qualification in one college
- Limited CPD opportunities
- Proposed strategy for Gaeltacht



I speak more English than Irish in the school playground (11 and 16 yr olds, n=368)



Parental attendance at Irish immersion school as child and language spoken in home with children

Expected Values	Speaks mostly Irish at home	Does not speak Irish at home
Did go to all Irish school	1.5	67.5
Did not go to all Irish school	13.5	587.5
	15	655

Actual Observation	Speaks mostly Irish at home	Does not speak Irish at home
Did go to all Irish school	5	64
Did not go to all Irish school	10	591
	15	655

Attending an Irish-medium school has an impact on speaking Irish at home with children. On average parents who went to an Irish-medium school are 4.5 times more likely to speak Irish at home than parents who did not go to an all-Irish school. 1.6% of people who did not go to Irish-medium school speak Irish at home whereas more than 7% of those who went to an Irish-medium school speak Irish at home as well (chi-square=8.81, df=1, p = .003)



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A photograph of four young adults (three women and one man) standing in a modern, brightly lit hallway with large glass panels. They are engaged in conversation. The man on the left wears a red hoodie and dark pants. The woman next to him wears a black patterned top and dark pants. The woman on the right wears a red and white striped shirt and blue leggings. The man on the far right wears a dark blue jacket and dark pants. The hallway has a light-colored floor and a glass railing with silver handles. The background shows more of the building's interior with glass walls and ceiling lights.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh
Thank you!