

THE SCHOOL BROADCASTING COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

MEETING - 20th June, 1979.

A SURVEY OF IRISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

by the Education Officer/Secretary SBCNI

I INTRODUCTION

The last survey of Irish language teaching was carried out in 1970 and presented to Northern Ireland Programme Committee of the School Broadcasting Council for the United Kingdom.

From 1972-76, two separate requests for the provision of Irish language broadcasts by the BBC were received from a College of Education lecturer and a teacher.

In September 1977, Mr. C.P. Stuart, Lecturer in Celtic studies at St. Mary's College of Education, Belfast, asked me to visit the College for discussions on the possibility of the BBC schools output including a series for teachers and pupils of Irish. At almost the same time, a similar request was submitted by Mr. Liam Andrews of the same College, on behalf of some 60 teachers of Irish who were attending an in-service course on the teaching of the language. This very detailed letter was addressed to the Director General. It set out the provision for Welsh and Gaelic series for Wales and Scotland and stated why this group of teachers felt that BBC NI should make a similar contribution to the teaching of Irish.

The Director General, in consultation with the Management of BBC NI and staff of SBC UK replied that the main problems were (1) finance and (2) priorities for the broadcast provision for the whole curriculum in schools in Northern Ireland. At this time, it was also announced that a new body, the School Broadcasting Council for Northern Ireland, would be set up from January 1978 and these requests would be considered by the Council.

As a result of this correspondence, the Chief Education Officer, for SBC UK, felt that evidence on the state of the teaching of Irish was rather ancient and might be inaccurate. In November 1977, the Chief Education Officer asked the Education Officer, Northern Ireland to carry out a field inquiry during 1978-79 to see if the situation concerning the teaching of the Irish language had changed. This was to give the new Council a more accurate up-to-date picture of any real need, if one existed.

In January 1978, after the public announcement had been made concerning the new Council, a request was received from the Belfast Committee of the Gaelic League for a meeting between the Council and a deputation from the Gaelic League concerning broadcast coverage of the Irish language. This meeting took place on 19th September, 1978 and a report was submitted to the Council and discussed at the last meeting 22nd November, 1978.

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It was then agreed that no decision could be made until the fieldwork had been completed.

This inquiry was also to include an examination of the kinds of broadcast contribution thought to be of most value to the Irish language curriculum in schools.

II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- (1) My initial meeting for this inquiry was with Mr. Henry McRory, The Inspector for Irish in the Department of Education, Northern Ireland. As well as contributing his own professional views on the subject, Mr. McRory provided a comprehensive list of teachers and schools with whom he felt consultation and discussion would be productive. His help has been invaluable.
- (2) Mr. S. Lavery, Principal of St. Peter's Secondary School, Belfast - Chief Moderator for the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) in Irish. He is also the author/collector of a song book in Irish used in many secondary schools.
- (3) Br. Beausang - teacher of Irish at Christian Brothers Grammar School, Glengormley - Chief Examiner for CSE and GCE.
- (4) Father McEntegart, Principal of Dungannon Academy - Chairman of the GCE Teachers' Panel and also on the Executive of the Gaelic League.
- (5) Mr. R. McCabhan, lecturer in Irish at the Institute of Continuing Education at Magee College, New University of Ulster. Author of a new series of textbooks *Bua na Gaeilge* for secondary schools.
- (6) Father Colman O'Huallachain, Head of Irish studies at the New University of Ulster. Formerly Adviser on Linguistics to the Minister of Education in the Republic of Ireland.
- (7) Mrs. Maeve Conway Pitskorski - Head of Schools Broadcasts, RTE.
- (8) The Northern Ireland Examinations Council.
- (9) The School Broadcasting Departments, BBC Scotland and BBC Wales.
- (10) Specific visits to seven secondary schools (including Grammar) and five primary schools. Where relevant, the teaching of Irish was also discussed on numerous school visits for general fieldwork.
- (11) Mr. C.P. Stuart, Lecturer in Celtic Studies at St. Mary's College of Education and Mr. McKendry, Lecturer at St. Joseph's College of Education.

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III. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE IRISH LANGUAGE IS TAUGHT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

"In dealing with the teaching of Irish in the primary school, consideration can be given to certain environmental factors which bear on the subject in Ireland. Unlike other languages, Irish does have immediate historical relevance for school pupils here. Surnames, Christian names, names of towns, counties, rivers, fields and numerous other geographical features are in most cases derived directly from Irish. Indeed the majority have still preserved the distinct Irish phonetic form to this day, e.g. Shankill, Knock, Belfast, Sean, Nuala, Erne, Lagan, Armagh, Fermanagh, O'Neill, MacShane, Devenney. In everyday conversation in town and country, children here make use of words and idioms which are obviously peculiar to our language environment and cannot be overlooked in a consideration of the teaching of Irish. Since children here are in relatively close proximity to Irish-speaking areas they can familiarise themselves with Irish sounds and speech without serious difficulty. These factors are of considerable help in the teaching of Irish and confer certain advantages which no other second language can claim to the same extent in Ireland". (Primary Education Teachers' Guide from DENI, 1974).

- (1) It is extremely difficult to assess the number of schools where Irish is taught. No statistics are available and there is no defined or uniformly supplied primary school syllabus in Irish.
- (2) There was no evidence that any Irish was taught in any schools controlled by the Area Boards.
- (3) Irish was taught in depth in a number of Roman Catholic Voluntary/Maintained primary schools. My sources state that these schools are small in number but in them Irish was a very important part of the curriculum.
- (4) Irish was taught to some degree in the majority of Roman Catholic primary schools, possibly being restricted to simple greetings, commands, blessings and prayers. The aim was to introduce a flavour of Irish culture to the pupils. Evidence given shows that no Irish was introduced before P4 at the earliest. The Department of Education discourages the introduction of any second language before P4.
- (5) Where Irish was taught, there was rarely evidence of any formal structure to it. Courses were evidently in oral form only, although developments are taking place which will enable written work in P5, P6 and P7 to be carried out (see (6) below).

There was no evidence of the use of audio visual teaching material from any source. Some schools had attempted in the past to use commercially produced materials purchased in Dublin and also tapes provided by RTE. These had been found to be unsuitable for various reasons: (a) material for the beginner in schools in the Republic was for 4/5 year olds. Northern schools do not begin teaching Irish until 9 years. The content and subject matter for 4/5 year olds was not acceptable to 9 year old pupils, although the language level was

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ideal. (b) Source material produced in the Republic was in Connaught dialect; Northern children have been taught in the Ulster dialect. There were, therefore, considerable problems of idiom and grammar, especially if the children visit Gaeltacht Colleges in Ulster during school holidays.

(6) Schools where Irish was felt to be important would spend a maximum of 15 minutes per day on the subject. In general, most schools would spend less than one hour a week on Irish.

(7) Reasons given for the low numbers of primary schools teaching the Irish language (a) Teachers who teach P5-7 are trained for general teaching and may only have Irish to 'O' level. Many wish to teach some Irish but lack the confidence to do so. (b) The selection procedures for secondary school entrance has narrowed the curriculum, especially in P6 and P7. (c) There is no structured course for Irish teaching in Northern primary schools from any source. (d) There has been a marked decline in the number of schools taking part in various competitions. The Belfast Feis has almost disappeared. Due to civil unrest, teachers and pupils are reluctant to travel in or around Belfast. Music and verse in Irish in schools are not now emphasised as they had been in the 1960s. Competition for the Beatty Cup - a competition by Colste Ulla (the Gaelic League) for primary schools has decreased considerably in recent years. (e) In some schools, it was felt that parents might not wish Irish to be taught to their children: the main worry was that a religious and political emphasis was associated with the language. This was despite teachers studiously avoiding such controversial areas.

(8) There is evidence that, with the growth of Teachers' Centres, in-service courses for Primary teachers who wish to teach Irish are developing. Already courses have been run in Newry and Craigavon and in the near future in Belfast. Mr. Seamas Ceitinn, Principal of Forkhill Primary School has taken these courses.

Mr. Ceitinn has used a direct oral method in his school for many years, from which he developed a series of work sheets on Banda stencils. He has just published the only course that I could find suitable for Northern Ireland Primary schools. It is entitled 'Sraith Fhoirceala' and there is a Teachers' Guide to explain the method of using the three class books for P5,6 and 7.

Mr. Ceitinn does not expect a vast surge in the teaching of Irish due to his publications. From his experience, he feels that any broadcasts in Irish should be aimed at the teachers as a form of in-service training.

NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (D.E.N.I. Statistics)

Controlled Primary Schools	-	574
Maintained	" "	497
Voluntary	" "	10

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IV. THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

(1) The extent of Irish language teaching in the secondary school is much more easily assessed. My investigations show that there is a clear cut pattern in Secondary (Intermediate) and Grammar schools.

(2) As with State controlled primary schools, there is evidence that little or no Irish is taught in Protestant Voluntary/Maintained Grammar schools, or in State Controlled Secondary and Grammar schools. A few pupils (usually transferred from the Republic) do wish to take Irish at a Protestant school and arrangements are usually made with the local Roman Catholic School. In the course of the review of 'Ulster in Focus', evidence was found of a growth of Irish studies courses in some Protestant Grammar and Secondary schools. A knowledge of the derivation of place names from the Irish language was included in these courses. This area of the curriculum will be reported to the Programme Committee on completion of the series review. One large Belfast Grammar School (Protestant) taught Irish at 'O' and 'A' level for several years. This was discontinued in the early 1970s, as the teacher had left to take up a post in Dublin.

(3) In almost all Catholic Secondary and Grammar schools, Irish is in a strong position. The language is usually taught by specialist teachers. In most schools, Irish is an obligatory subject for the first two and perhaps the first three years. In fourth, fifth and sixth years, pupils proceed to GCE 'O' level and 'A' level and the CSE examinations. (See (5) below). Irish in these schools has the same curricular standing as French, and is usually given an equal amount of time.

(4) The following is a breakdown of the statistics concerning secondary schools (supplied by Mr. H. McRory, Inspector, D.E.N.I. and the Statistics Branch, D.E.N.I.)

TOTAL NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

(A) GRAMMAR	- Controlled	21
	- Voluntary	57
	- Maintained	0
(B) SECONDARY (INTERMEDIATE)	- Controlled	91
	- Maintained	92
	- Voluntary	0
(C) COMPREHENSIVE	- not given	
(D) F.E. COLLEGES	-	27

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN WHICH IRISH IS TAUGHT

(A) GRAMMAR	30
(B) SECONDARY (INTERMEDIATE)	65
(C) COMPREHENSIVE	5
(D) F.E. COLLEGES	not known
(E) Total number of pupils studying Irish	28,750
(F) Number of teachers involved in teaching Irish	308

(5) STATISTICS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

(a) Total number of candidates for G.C.E. 'O' level:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Irish	1,074	1,783	1,742	1,754	1,757
French	7,724	7,583	7,551	7,912	8,049
German	1,103	1,079	1,081	1,128	1,081
Spanish	876	915	988	1,077	1,220

(b) Total number of candidates for G.C.E. 'A' level:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Irish	322	341	298	320	281
French	1,354	1,321	1,341	1,288	1,286
German	263	251	257	244	271
Spanish	228	218	234	252	284

(c) Total number of entries for C.S.E. The figures in brackets indicate the number of schools. (Irish and French are the only languages examined for C.S.E. in Northern Ireland, in addition to English). N.I.C.S.E. was only introduced in 1973.

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Irish	87(15)	135(19)	201(25)	163(21)	123(20)
French	672(70)	848(84)	954(89)	1,242(98)	1,135(102)

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(6) It is freely accepted that most pupils who learn Irish in any depth do not do so before the age of 11 years. There is a problem concerning the use of resources provided in the Republic of Ireland for the 11+ beginners. The language content of these resources is basic but the subject content is too childish and it is rejected by the pupils. Similarly, the problem of dialect causes great difficulty for Northern children. When teachers have to amend the audio visual material from Munster to Ulster dialect, many of the weaker children are confused and give up.

Colm agus Muala is a series of tapes produced in Connemara Irish and tell the stories of Colm and Muala. These were re-made by a group of teachers into the Northern dialect using children from Donegal. The amateur tapes were moderately successful. Secondary teachers said that Southern textbooks were virtually useless and the language was taught very much as a 'chalk and talk' exercise.

A course in Irish - produced by R.T.E. called 'Buntús Ceinte' for adults, is used in many secondary schools. Opinions varied but many found it too adult. Similar comments were made on a set of four books Bua na Gaeilge written by Mr. R. MacGabhann, aimed at secondary schools.

The RTE schools output is rarely used in Northern Ireland schools. It is again too difficult for the age range in Northern Ireland schools, at which it is aimed in the Republic. There are some teachers visited who stated that they used the RTE output from Radio na Gaeltachta to provide material for 'A' level students.

(7) Reasons for an Irish language provision from the BBC in Northern Ireland were given as follows: (most teachers accepted that a broadcast series, if provided, would be on radio only).

(a) Obviously there is a great scarcity of texts and resources, particularly for 11-13 year olds.

(b) The BBC schools output has been acknowledged as non-partisan and neutral by the vast majority of the Northern Ireland community. This is well illustrated by the acceptance across all divisions of the series on Irish History.

(c) Children are aware of the significance of the media - radio and television give status to whatever is the topic or subject. Irish language broadcasts transmitted by the BBC would give an acceptance and status to Irish and stimulate a desire for further learning - Irish would be on a par with other languages.

(d) By providing a wide range of language experience, in a lively and varied manner, there would be a strong motivational effect.

(e) Conversational programmes with sound effects and music would give the specialist teacher the opportunity to emphasise the linguistic problems in a familiar context. The use of radio situations not easily accessible to teachers (who might be dependent on so-called old fashioned textbooks) could bring a modern relevance to Irish.

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(f) In G.C.E. 'O' level, 40% of the final marks depend on oral tests. At 'A' level, there is also a major oral test including conversational Irish. In N.I.C.S.E., there are two oral tests - one on reading and the other a conversation test. 37½% of the marks are thus allocated.

(g) There is a continuing revival of Irish music and culture throughout Ireland. Broadcasting could support and spread this revival among pupils in the secondary schools.

(h) The development of Irish studies courses in all kinds of secondary schools could lead to Irish studies at 'O' and CSE level. Broadcasts in Irish for schools could be developed to form a part of such a course.

(i) The most frequently repeated reason for the BBC providing a series in the Irish language was the need for audio visual resources to be in the Northern/Down/Donegal dialect. Distinctive Ulster voices would significantly increase the value of Irish in modern settings.

(8) During the holidays from school, particularly at Easter and in the Summer, pupils from Northern Ireland secondary schools spend various periods of time at Gaeltacht Colleges, in or close to Northern Ireland. The Irish language is spoken and taught at all times. It was stated that any broadcast provision in conversational Irish would be used in these Colleges.

(a) There are ten Colleges in Donegal. In July and August 1978, 3,700 pupils from Northern Ireland, mainly in the 12-18 years range, were in residence.

(b) At two Colleges in Donegal, there are ten-day courses at Easter - 400/500 pupils.

(c) There are also Colleges which take courses for Northern pupils in the summer. Omagh - 200 pupils. Monaghan - 200 pupils. Forkhill - 70 pupils.

V. COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITIES

(a) In two Belfast Colleges - St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, Irish is only an optional subject. Most students follow a Celtic studies course (according to Mr. C.P. Stuart). The RTE output for 16-18 year olds and adults would be of immense use if purchased by the BBC and transmitted as Further Education series e.g. radio series 'The Pleasures of Gaelic Literature' by John Jordan. However, this is seen as fulfilling a need of a small audience.

(b) There are about 70 students from both Belfast Colleges in 1st-4th year following a Bachelor of Education course. This means turning out approximately 10 new teachers of Irish per year, for secondary schools. Many other students take Irish/Celtic studies as a subsidiary subject and may teach Irish for part of their timetable. The two lecturers felt the greatest need would be for a radio series to help these teachers, semi-specialists usually teaching the language to 11-13 year olds.

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(c) At the New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Fr. O'Huallachain believes that the decline in Irish throughout Ireland is due to lack of support from Governments and their Departments of Education. Similarly, he believes that the media have not given recognition to the language nor emphasised its value in a social and cultural sense.

In his course planning, he is emphatic that his main objective in teaching Irish is to de-politicise the Irish language. Catholic separatism and political symbolism have been identified with the Irish language. He believes that this has decreased considerably since 1946. He would advocate an Irish Studies course (already agreed as a priority by SBCNI) as well as a course on radio for 10-13 year olds in Irish. If Irish is transmitted by BBC, it must avoid any kind of identification with religion and sectarianism. Fr. O'Huallachain is convinced the production of broadcasts by the BBC would blunt the division caused by the language in the past.

VI. PRIORITIES OF THE SCHOOL BROADCASTING COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Since the formation of the School Broadcasting Council for Northern Ireland by the BBC in March 1978, the Council and its Committee endorsed the priorities of the previous Northern Ireland Programme Committee.

(1) A new radio series for Infants. This was included in the Annual Request for the school year 1979-80 and accepted by BBC NI. A Producer was appointed and the series will begin in the Spring Term 1980.

(2) A new series for 10-13 year old pupils with a working title 'Irish Studies'. This is included in the recommendation of the Programme Committee for the Annual Request by the Council to the BBC NI for the year 1980-81.

The former Northern Ireland Programme Committee discussed priorities at previous meetings. In 1974 several other areas of the curriculum in the primary and secondary schools were listed as follows:

Minutes of 23rd October, 1974

RADIO

- (a) A new three term series for 5-7 (implemented 1979)
- (b) A new three term series for 10-13 (requested for 1980-81)
- (c) Extension of Irish History to two terms.
- (d) Extension of Irish Geography to two terms.
- (e) Extension of Explorations to two terms.

TELEVISION

- (a) New series for 7-9 year olds - two terms (implemented 1977)
- (b) Extension of Ulster in Focus to three terms weekly, instead of three terms fortnightly.

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VII. ACTION

The Council may wish to take a decision on the following after consideration of this Report:

- (1) That no request for a series to support Irish language teaching be made to BBC N.I.
- (2) That a request for a series to support Irish language teaching be made to BBC N.I.

If (1), then the Council must reply to the bodies and individuals who have requested the inclusion of a series in the output and be prepared to answer criticisms of its action, stating the reasons for it.

If (2), then the Council must decide whether the series is for the primary school or the secondary school, or for use in both, and what priority it should be given. Cogniscence should also be given as to whether this will mean additional staff for the BBC NI School Broadcasting Department and/or a cut back in other areas of the Schools Department output. If the latter, which area or areas of the output?

The Council may also wish to consider what additional advisory structure will be needed. Is it possible for the existing Programme Committee to be responsible for a series in the Irish language? Might there not be need for an Irish Language Broadcasting Sub-Committee (similar to that constituted by SBC Scotland for Gaelic?)

If a series is provided by the Council and BBC NI, there will be further fieldwork and feedback required from the Education Officer, Northern Ireland. Assistance may possibly be required from an Irish speaking Education Officer.

E.G. TWADDELL

Education Officer/Secretary SBCNI.

APPENDIX TO THE SURVEY OF IRISH LANGUAGE TEACHING
IN SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

(a) FOR SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND

The Annual Programme for 1978-79 provides in detail the output for the School Broadcasting Department. After consultation with the Secretary to the SBC Scotland, I have summarised the output, and added a few notes on the Gaelic output.

There are 16 series on radio and television transmitted by BBC Scotland in English, but with specifically Scottish material.

There are three series for Gaelic:

- (1) 'Co lad?' for 8-10 year olds. This is two terms of 20 programmes on radio, 20 minutes long. Research figures give 75% of the possible audience taking the series.
- (2) 'Culaidh Mhiogais' for 5-7 year olds. This is two terms of 20 programmes on radio, 15 minutes long. Nearly all the programmes are new per year and figures give 80% of the possible audience taking the series.
- (3) 'Say it in Gaelic' - a new series this year, for 6-9 year olds, one term of 10 programmes on radio, 10 minutes long. The series is to encourage non-Gaelic speaking children to take up the language.

These series came about as a result of a meeting in 1974 of the Gaelic School Broadcasting Advisory Committee of SBC (S). I quote from the relevant paper presented to the Scottish Programme Committee 1st May, 1974:

'At this meeting it was emphasised that school broadcasts in Gaelic, properly planned and produced, would be of very substantial help to the education of Gaelic speaking pupils in the area. However well-intentioned their teachers might be, there was an acute shortage of teaching materials (books and other aids) in the pupils' native tongue. In this respect, they were severely disadvantaged in their fundamental work by comparison with schools in other parts of the UK, and were therefore obliged to rely heavily on rather old fashioned chalk and talk methods. Allied to this was the diminishing status in the eyes of their pupils of their own tongue. This was at least in part due to the effect of television and other media, which of course, permeate the school as well as the home life of the pupils.'

The three series are transmitted only on VHF transmitters serving the Highlands and Islands of North and North West Scotland.

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(b) FOR SCHOOLS IN WALES

In 1978-79, there were four series in English for schools in Wales, concerning Welsh material only. There are 14 series in the Welsh language for the age range 5-18 years. Four of these series in Welsh are for pupils in schools where Welsh is the first language - e.g. Primary Science in Welsh.

Of the series which assist the teaching of the language, all are for primary schools. The audiences vary considerably. I have taken the following series as examples:

- (1) 'Un, Dau, Tri!' for under 5 years - three terms weekly on radio, 15 minutes long. 30 programmes per year taken by approximately 50-60% of the target audience.
- (2) 'O Banti i Bentan' - a miscellany series for 9-11 years. 3 terms weekly on radio - 20 minutes long. 30 programmes per year, taken by 50% of the target audience.
- (3) 'Hyn O Fyd' - a miscellany series for 9-11 years - three terms weekly on television - 20 minutes with 25 programmes, repeated within the week. Taken by between 80-90% of the target audience.

The Secretary for SBC(W) stated that 1/5 of the schools in Wales, approximately 500-550, use Welsh as a first language. A major part of the budget for schools broadcasts is spent on a minority audience.

(1)	To make Welsh programmes for study as a first language	- 66%	} of the Budget.
(2)	" " " " " " second "	- 9%	
(3)	" " " " " " in English "	- 35%	

(c) THE OUTPUT IN IRISH FOR SCHOOLS BY RADIO TELEFIS EIREANN

The RTE Schools Department output, in English and Irish, fluctuates from year to year. In the past, the output has been dependent on funding from the Department of Education of the Government. This has caused severe planning problems from year to year.

A major project on Irish for Gaeltacht areas along the West coast was carried out in the mid-1970s. Lavish publications were provided and the RTE education staff monitored the experiment in great depth in the primary age range. The project was dropped shortly after transmission, due to lack of funds.

This year, RTE have transmitted the following series in Irish:

- (1) 'Cogar Mogar' - for first year students (12-13 years old) - for those not very fluent. There are bi-lingual sections in the programmes. There are 10 programmes on radio, repeated within the week over one term - 15 minutes long. It is hoped to extend this series, in September 1980, to two and eventually three terms.

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(2) 'Preab San Aer' - for competent, fluent Irish speakers in the first years of secondary education. Originally, the programmes were designed for transmission outside school hours. There are 50 programmes (new each year) on radio - a selection is transmitted over the Spring term - 15 minutes long.

(3) 'Gaeilge Sensear' - for 5th and 6th year pupils doing Higher Certificate. This is a television drama series and mainly consists of critiques of the text and the authors. There are five programmes - 25 minutes long.

(4) 'Scribheoire Gaeilge' - a series on Irish writers. A mixture of documentaries and interviews to the camera. For 5th and 6th years - 5 programmes in one term - 25 minutes long.

(5) 'Irish Studies' entitled 'Hands' as it is on various aspects of Irish handicrafts. Not specifically designed for school use, but for any age group. There are 6 programmes on television - in one term - 30 minutes long.

(6) 'The Pleasures of Gaelic Literature' - nine talks on radio in English on a writer's choice of prose in Modern Irish. Aimed at the Leaving Certificate Course in Irish. The programmes are for one term - approximately 30 minutes long.

RTE transmit many other series (some purchased from the BBC Schools output e.g. 'Europe from the Air'). These imported series are often dubbed with an Irish language sound-track.

Further details of the above RTE series were given but not included in this report.

(7) Recently, the Advisory Committee on Educational Broadcasting presented its final report to the RTE Authority. It is quite possible that the Authority may create in the Republic a School Broadcasting Council along the lines of the School Broadcasting Councils throughout the United Kingdom.

In its Report, the Committee considers that RTE's educational broadcasting service has a responsibility with regard to the Irish language "because in its own right, Irish is a language comparable in all respects to the other languages taught in our schools and deserving of at least the same degree of attention and support so that it may be well taught and well learned.

For these reasons the Committee recommends that the broadcasting service should provide:

- (a) support for the acquisition of a competent knowledge of the language in school
- (b) a continued stimulus to retain and improve the knowledge acquired in school.
- (c) an enriched appreciation of Irish cultural heritage and identity as an informed and well motivated basis for the pursuit of the bilingual ideal."