

Polish School celebrates four years in Galway

Galway's Polish School is celebrating four years in operation this September.

Over 300 students are currently being taught by 28 teachers at the school, located at the Holy Trinity National School, Mervue.

Classes take place every Saturday for four hours, when students aged from three to 17 learn the Polish language, Polish history and geography.

Praising Holy Trinity National School Principal Peter Woods, the school's teachers and board of management for their co-operation, Polish School Principal and mother-of-two, Agnieszka Grochola said the non-profit organisation was first established to ensure

that Polish children living in Ireland or children born here to Polish-Irish couples retained links to their homeland.

"There were a few reasons to set up Polish classes. The first one came up after a few months of living in Ireland, when I discovered that my own kids seemed to forget their first language. It was important to me that they would know their first language, history of their parents and grandparents' country - their roots," she said.

Other families also faced a situation where they intended to return to Poland after a few years and needed to keep their children in touch with the

Polish language. "Otherwise, there would have been too big a gap, and kids might struggle in Polish school, after being a few years abroad," said Ms Grochola.

With the help of parents, teachers and chairperson Bogna Griffin, the Polish School was established in 2009. Teachers at the school are certified by the Polish Ministry of National Education and pupils there are being prepared for the Higher Level Leaving Certificate Examination in Polish as well as examinations in the

Polish educational system.

In recent years, the school has also created the biggest Polish School

Library outside Poland, which contains 5,000 books along with e-books, audiobooks and movies, 90 per cent of which are in the Polish language.

The online catalogue for the library is available at katalog.spgalway.com. For more information on the school, visit www.spgalway.com.



Students from the Polish School.

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