



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

“All schools in N I should learn Irish,” says SDLP



**An SDLP plan to make Irish a compulsory subject for all Northern Ireland schools is a direct result of their trouncing at the polls by Sinn Fein. They are seeking to recover their lost portion of the Roman Catholic vote by out-Sinn Feining Sinn Fein!! Unionists have criticised the suggestion, claiming the scheme to make Irish an official language in all schools and Government services would be a breach of the Agreement.**

The core subjects currently taught in Northern Ireland schools are English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, the Environment and Society, and “Creative and Expressive Studies”. Secondary schools are also required to offer a language, although the particular language is not specified.

Dr Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP, said there would be “absolutely no practical benefit” from the proposal and attacked the SDLP’s motives for making the suggestion. “The Northern Ireland Assembly and the legislative process should not be used and abused by the fourth largest party for its own pet projects,” he said. Calling for the compulsory teaching of Irish is as ridiculous as calling for compulsory voting for the SDLP, for it can serve no other purpose but the advancement of a narrow political agenda. The SDLP are using the education of Northern Ireland’s children as their political plaything in their ongoing battle with Sinn Fein/IRA. As the Sinn Fein/IRA steamroller continues to pound the SDLP at the polls we can expect even more harebrained ideas from the SDLP as they try to out-Sinn-Fein Sinn Fein.”