

## **Lithuanian**

### **Why learn Lithuanian?**

According to the official Irish population census, there were 36,683 Lithuanians living in Ireland in 2016. Approximately 16,000 of these are children and young people. There is an imperative to support and capitalise on the multilingual abilities of young people, not only because of the economic benefits, but also because of the well-documented social, analytical and psychological benefits.

This short course is designed to stimulate students' interest in Lithuanian language and culture and to nurture their desire to maintain proficiency in Lithuanian. It aims to foster an attitude of curiosity and openness to both the heritage culture (Lithuanian) and the newly acquired culture (Irish), and it will highlight students' participation in a multicultural, cosmopolitan society. In a multicultural society, it is important that young people have the opportunity to learn about their Lithuanian culture, appreciate similarities and differences, and learn to observe, reflect and suspend judgement when discovering new cultures while simultaneously reflecting on their own. This course offers opportunities to do this.

# What will students do?



## **Communicate effectively using a variety of means in a range of contexts:**

Students will participate in a wide range of language activities, in a wide variety of contexts, to develop their oral and written communication.

## **Create, appreciate and critically interpret a wide range of texts:**

Students will engage critically with texts in a wide range of forms, to understand and respond to their content, and to enrich their own spoken and written output.

## **Appreciate and respect how diverse values, beliefs and traditions have contributed to the communities and culture in which they live:**

Students will encounter diversity through accessing a wide variety of texts and will learn to appreciate the significance of diversity through discussion and reflection.

## **Describe, illustrate, interpret, predict and explain patterns and relationships:**

Students are also encouraged to express themselves creatively in Lithuanian using ICT tools for text, audio and video (which may include written as well as oral language). Students use technology for self-access learning and to assess their progress by completing a digital portfolio, an e-ELP or by using other online learning tools. Students also use technology to interact with speakers of Lithuanian in a safe and responsible manner by using a range of ICT tools such as blogs or Skype.