

FLAGS FOR SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

A FLAG THAT HAS FLOWN OVER THE GPO FOR EVERY SCHOOL BY 2016

A PROPOSAL BY SENATOR MARK DALY AND DEPUTY NIALL BLANEY

Proposal

We propose that each school in Ireland be presented with a tricolour which has flown on the GPO. Each day a new flag will be risen over the GPO. The flags flown over a period of one year will be presented to Irish schools in a ceremony every September.

The Flag will be 6ft x 3ft, roughly the same size as the flag that flew on Easter Sunday 1916. This initiative will continue until such time as each school in the Republic of Ireland has a tricolour proudly displayed in a stand inside the schools doors.

It is expected that this vision will be realised by 2016 in time to commemorate the centenary of the Easter Rising.

April 15th 2008- Anninversary of Tricolour

April 15th 2008 sees the 160th anniversary of the the arrival of the original Irish Tricolour to our shores. The concept of the flag was brought from Paris to Ireland in 1848 by Thomas Francis Meagher, the Young Ireland Leader, where it was welcomed with the words "I hope to see that flag one day waving as our national banner".

Meagher presented the flag at a meeting in Dublin. The Irish tricolour quickly became a symbol of the many traditions on our island, orange representing the Protestant tradition, green representing the Catholic tradition and white, most importantly, representing peace.

Thomas Francis Meagher became one of Ireland and America's greatest and most courageous heroes. He commanded the Irish Regiment at the Battle of Fredericksburg during the American Civil War.

During his address to the Houses of the Oireachtas in 1963, President John F. Kennedy spoke of Meagher's legacy and presented the flag of Meagher's 69th Brigade.



Thomas Francis Meagher

Significance of Flag from GPO



GPO 1916

As we approach the centenary of the 1916 Rising never has there been a more suitable time to pass a resolution to commemorate the heroes that were the Volunteers of 1916.

Supporting this initiative is a small price to pay so that every child can see a flag that represents the enormous price paid by so many in Easter 1916.