

Gaelscoil Dara

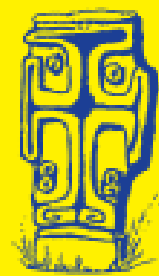
An Rinn Mhór

Gaillimh

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Policies Summary



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This is a brief summary of some of the main school policies. The complete versions are available for viewing in the school office.

Mission Statement

Gaelscoil Dara is an all Irish Catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop of Galway. The school was established in 1984.

The aim of this school, as a gaelscoil, is to provide education of the highest quality through Gaeilge for our students in a setting that will give them the opportunity to taste the culture, the music and the heritage of this country.

Equality & Balance

The school is an organisation of equality and that philosophy will always be implemented among the teaching staff, ancillary staff and the students.

A respect for every person in the school will therefore be created.

The school places emphases on drama and acting. We recognise that this hugely benefits the children as regards self-confidence, self-respect and hugely promotes language development. The school participates in many extra community activities - Féile na hInse, Babaró, Féile Scoildrámaíochta (Schools drama festival), Write-a-book project, art projects in association with Rosedale School, Book Week in the library, The Green Flag living crib at the Cathedral, Credit Union Table Quiz and sports days with other Gaelscoils and Gaeltacht schools.

A big effort was made to create a good positive personal atmosphere in the school from the outset and that is very important to us still even though the school has expanded extensively. Parents are welcome in to share information and provide assistance.

That all of the child's attributes will be fully developed taking into account the varying abilities and needs of each child. That education of the highest quality be provided so that the children will be able to take a full effective part in society. To this end an effort will be made to boost the self-respect and self-confidence of the child.

This school is a Gaelscoil and *An Ghaeilge* is the schools communication and teaching language. Parents are not required to have fluent Irish but it is important that there would be a positive attitude towards An Ghaeilge in the household. It is the aim of the school that An Ghaeilge would be used as a living language in the school.

TIMETABLE

Junior/Senior Infants School Day	8.50 am - 1.30 pm
Classes 1 to 6 School Day	8.50 am - 2.30 pm
Every class has a break from	10.50 am - 11.05 pm
Main play break	12.35 - 1.00 pm

As regards school holidays, the yearly calendar is sent to parents at the start of the school year.

Exceptional closures for in-service days etc. will be conveyed to the school community as early as possible.

Punctuality

Parents are asked to ensure that the child attends school everyday and that he/she is on time. If the child needs to leave the school at any time (lunchtime or any other time) the class teacher must have received the permission from the parent/guardian. There is a particular form for this available from the office.

In the case where a child comes to school late, we ask that he/she be accompanied by a parent to the school office (rather than go directly to the class) in order to minimise disruption.

In the case where a child is absent parents are asked to bring a note of explanation to the school. (Templates are available in the children's homework diary).

The Board of Management do not accept any responsibility for children, until the doors of the school are opened at 8.40am or after 2.30pm, the schools closing time.

Attendance Strategy

If a child misses over 20 days of school in any one school year, the principal is obliged to contact the Education Welfare Office with the details – days missed, date of birth etc.

Recognition is given to children who have a good attendance. Certificates are presented to them at the end of the school year.

Irish Language Policy

As part of your child's immersion education:

- *An Ghaeilge* is the language of communication of the school in full. It is not only the teaching language. It is not limited to the classroom only.
- It is hoped also that parents will make an effort to use any Gaeilge that they have to the children outside and especially inside the school gates. The teachers and children will always be greeted *as Gaeilge*. *An Ghaeilge* will be spoken at any school event, at swimming, at matches, in the schoolyard or on school tours.
- Various strategies are used to encourage children to speak *An Ghaeilge* in the school environs, including reward stamps and yellow/ red cards. Strategies may be reviewed from time to time.

Extra Curricular Activities

During school time the children have the opportunity to take part in drama, in the school choir, in communication skills, linguistics and sport.

Classes are provided after school in French, Science, Tin Whistle, Knitting, Yoga Violin, Irish Dancing and Singing from year to year. Our local Ógras branch also meet on Wednesday afternoons.

Football, hurling, camogie, soccer, volleyball, handball, tabletennis, badminton, swimming and basketball are catered for during school hours.

Parents Contact/Relationship with the School

As the parent is the child's first and main educator and as the teacher is "in loco parentis" it is in unison that parents and teachers will undertake the child's education. (Please keep phone numbers and addresses up to date).

Parents/Teachers Meeting will be held in November for every class, to discuss the child's progress.

Any parent is welcomed to make an appointment with any teacher to discuss problems or the child's progress at any time of year.

Junior Infants parents are met at going home time each day and they will be encouraged to speak as Gaeilge especially around the school.

NB. Keep the teacher informed regarding any issues that would affect your child.

Scéala Dara

The school newsletter "Scéala Dara" is the main means of communication to parents during the year. Please check your emails regularly or visit the school website for current issues.

Healthy Lunch Policy

Introduction & Objectives:

Gaelscoil Dara recognises that a healthy lunch is extremely important for the child.

Fruit and vegetables are encouraged as part of the child's lunch.

Chocolate, bars, crisps, popcorn, chewing gum, "cereal bars", biscuits any sweets or fizzy drinks are prohibited. Great emphasis is placed on food that is healthy and nutritious.

Exceptions: Exceptions are made now and again on special occasions e.g.

Christmas Party or as a 'treat' from the teachers for the class.

Health & Safety

Illness and Injury

If an injury occurs to any child's head, no matter how small it is, the parent is contacted immediately. If they cannot be contacted a note is sent home to say that such an incident happened.

If a child is sick or if a child is hurt in an accident in school the parents or the guardian is called by telephone. If they cannot be contacted the doctor is called if it is urgent.

School environs

The children's interest in their school environs and the cleanliness of the school is fostered. They are encouraged to keep their classrooms and the school's environment clean and free from litter.

School Policy on issuing medicines

Unprescribed medicines will not be administered and such will not be kept in the school.

Prescribed medicines will not be administered without written permission from parents/guardians and Board of Management Authority.

The medicine should not be in the students possession. It should be kept In the staffroom for ease of access by staff members.

Some medicines (e.g. an inhaler that a child with asthma would have) should be easily available throughout the school day.

There is no compulsion on any staff member to give medicines or drugs to students.

Policy on mobile phone usage

Mobile phones are totally prohibited. If an urgent phone call is required this will be done from the school's office without cost.

Parents' Committee

It is suggested to parents to be active in the schools life and to take part in the Parents' Committee to help with the progress and development of the school e.g. Fundraising Campaigns, organising special events that pertain to the school, after school classes etc.

Gaelscoil Dara

Code of Discipline

In formulating this code, parents were invited to submit suggestions.

All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code.

A copy of this code will be made available to all parents.

The code will be reviewed at agreed intervals.

In devising this Code of Discipline consideration has been given firstly to the general aims of Primary Education as stated in the “Primary School Curriculum”. These are:-

- 1) To enable the child to live a full life as a child, and to realise his or her potential as a unique individual.
- 2) To enable the child to develop as a social being through living and co-operating with others and so contribute to the good of society.
- 3) To prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning.

Secondly, consideration has been given to the specific aims of Gaelscoil Dara:

- (a) That parents may be confident of their decision to choose Gaelscoil Dara for their children.
- (b) To provide each child with the same educational advantages, through the medium of An Ghaeilge, as would be provided in any other school.
- (c) To give the child insight into his/her culture and heritage as a citizen of this island.
- (d) To ensure a literacy and fluency in An Ghaeilge so that the child will respect, and love the language, that he/she will appreciate it's importance as an Irish person and that he/she will speak it at every opportunity.

- (e) That the child will be equally fluent in both English and Gaeilge on leaving primary school, and that this bilingualism will help in the acquisition of further languages at secondary school level.
- (f) To ensure that the child will develop a positive and responsible attitude towards the environment and towards society in general.

In the preparation of a Code of Discipline, two relevant factors must be taken into account:

1. All children are complex human beings with physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs and potentialities;
 2. Because each child is an individual, he deserves to be valued for himself/herself and to be provided with the kind and variety of opportunities towards stimulation and fulfilment which will enable him/her to develop his/her natural powers at his/her own rate to fullest capacity.
- It is generally accepted that if a child is to receive “fair play”, then he/she has a right to education in an environment as free as possible from behaviour that would disrupt the learning process.
 - The teacher will make all efforts to interact kindly with the children and to avoid sarcasm. The teachers of Gaelscoil Dara recognise that it is very important that they meet with parents and develop positive relations with them.
 - This would enable the teacher to have an insight into the child’s background. We would be made aware of problems that might directly or indirectly affect the child’s behaviour in school. All such information would be, of course, highly confidential. In special cases the school may advise an independent assessment of a child.
 - Parents will be regularly advised on the aims, policies, rules and activities of the school through the medium of “Scéala Dara”. They will be advised as to

how best to assist the staff in all school matters and will be informed as to the aims, methods, amount of homework etc.

- Parents are welcome to meet with the teachers by making an appointment.
- We all, (staff, pupils and parents) are as a small community working towards the same goals and fulfilment of the same aims. We should cooperate in creating a positive school spirit and support all school activities which lend themselves to the creation of such a spirit - social occasions, drama, fund-raising events etc.
- Teachers will make every effort to ensure that lively and stimulating methods, with work matched to pupils' abilities, are pursued in the class. Positive expectations by teachers can make pupils more responsible in their work and conduct. Where teachers insist, firmly and fairly, on honest effort and commitment from pupils and on high standards of behaviour, there is a greater likelihood they will obtain them.
- The children will be reminded of the school rules and their purposes on a regular basis. There will be emphasis placed on the rights of the pupils as well as on the rights of teachers in the classroom.
- The children's own opinions will be sought where appropriate. Staff will consider themselves responsible at all times for the behaviour within sight and sound of them and will respond promptly and firmly to any instances of unacceptable behaviour.
- Each teacher will keep a written record of instances of misbehaviour. This record will indicate the nature of the misconduct, the advice and/or warnings given and the results of such advice. Parents will be fully informed from the outset of frequent instances of unacceptable behaviour on the part of their children.

- In most cases teachers will resolve their own discipline problems but occasionally will seek the advice or support of another teacher and/or the principal in certain cases.

What constitutes “good” behaviour?

1. Friendliness/Politeness - Greeting teachers and others properly (Féach leagan Gaeilge) and excusing oneself before interrupting to speak.
2. Listening properly and paying attention when spoken to.
3. Proper posture when seated in class - strictly no swinging on chairs.
4. To be attentive when announcements are being made circa 2.25 p.m. before going home.
5. Tidiness in the classroom and corridor, possessions kept neat and tidy particularly before going home.
6. Showing respect for the dignity of others, and for their property.

School Rules.

1. Be mannerly and respectful at all times.
2. Listen at all times.
3. Always walk when in the school building.
4. Stand quietly in the line, and remain seated on wet days at break times.
5. Always raise your hand to obtain permission to speak (except when the teacher permits general conversation for the purpose of group work).
6. “Riail na Gaeilge” - *An Ghaeilge* is the spoken language in the school with the exception of English class.

7. Always show respect for school property.
8. Abide by the playground and toilet rules.

Playground Rules.

1. Visit the toilet before going out to play.
2. It is not permitted to remain in the classroom without the teacher's consent or provision of a note from a parent.
3. Show respect for the rights of other children and for school property.
4. Always play safely and behave in a responsible manner.
5. Remain inside the school boundaries.
6. If any child has a query or problem or should an accident occur, speak to the teacher on yard duty first.
7. The first bell indicates that all play must stop.
8. The second bell indicates that there must be complete silence in all class lines.

Toilet Rules.

1. Do not ask to go to the toilet during formal instruction. Do so between subject changes or at break time.
2. Always observe basic hygiene - wash hands etc.
3. Permission from a teacher on duty is required in order to enter the school to go to the toilet when in the school yard

Disciplinary Sanctions.

1. Warning.
2. Warning and child asked to stand while their name is being recorded in the behaviour notebook.
3. The child may be penalised as follows:-
 - (a) Separation from peers, standing or seated.
 - (b) Lines to write.
 - (c) Extra homework.
 - (d) Privileges denied e.g. play, yard, P.E., games and school trips.
4. Child sent to principal's office and then parents must sign a written report of child's misbehaviour.
5. Detention after school.
6. Meeting between principal, parents and class teacher arranged.
7. Suspension of the child. This will be authorised by the Board of Management