



Gaelscoil Riada

Croí na scoile

Language is the foundation of the school and the children are at the heart of gaelscolaíocht. We depend on them to pass on the Irish language to the next generation. (Our Irish Language policy, Gaelscoileanna 2005, lch7)

- ✓ **The Irish Language** is the language of communication and business at school. Irish is the language spoken at school and at school events. There is plenty support available for those who wish to improve their Irish, such as our weekly Ciorcal Comhrá as well as language classes for parents.
- ✓ Gaelscoil Riada is a **multi-denominational** primary school which recognises differences (spiritual, moral and cultural, intellectual, physical, social, artistic) between children and the need to understand and respect this diversity.
This is in line with the core-curriculum of religious instruction called 'Learn together' and the SPHE guidelines (1999).
- ✓ Each child is welcomed to our school regardless of age, status, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, economic status or family status. The child's sense of equality is nurtured and developed.
- ✓ The aim of this code is to ensure that every child's uniqueness is recognised, respected and cherished.
- ✓ In Gaelscoil Riada, a strong emphasis is placed on developing and practising good behaviour through encouragement, praise and support. All children are encouraged to respect one another and the world around them.
- ✓ Every effort is made to ensure that a happy, safe, exciting and healthy environment is provided within our school community.
- ✓ Parents, as primary educators, are encouraged to play an active role in their child's school life.
- ✓ Every effort is made to ensure that the school code is implemented fairly and consistently.

The little school booklet which is given to junior infant parents on the open evening is available from the office and is packed full of useful information. Please ensure you have a copy at home!

1. Gaeilge

An integral part of the curriculum of the Gaelscoil is the spoken language. Irish is the spoken language of the school; in class, on the yard, and on trips or at school events elsewhere.

- All members of the school staff and the school community make every effort to speak Irish at all times.



- Children are continuously rewarded for their efforts in speaking Irish. Class teachers use various reward systems to encourage and promote children's efforts.

2. Our Multi-Denominational Ethos

In keeping with the multi-denominational aspect of our school, children become familiar with and learn about the traditions, culture, practices and beliefs of people from many different faiths and religious systems. The school follows a core-curriculum of religious instruction called 'Learn Together' which dovetails well with the national curricular Social, Personal and Health (SPHE) guidelines. Difference, uniqueness and equality are celebrated.

3. The School Day:

School starts at **8:50**. Infants go home at **1:30** and 1st-6th classes go home at **2:30**.

Break times are as follows:

Infant Breaks: 10.30-10.40 and 12.10-12.40.

To ensure the safety of children, parents are asked not to drop their children off prior to 8.50am and to collect them on time every day.

4. School Safety:

In Gaelscoil Riada we encourage children to:

Follow agreed rules in the classroom.

Play together safely in the yard.

Show respect to one another and to all school staff.

The School's Code of Behaviour is available in the school office for viewing and will shortly be available on the school website.

Fire Safety:

We have a fire drill at least twice every term. The assembly point is outside the main gate of the school in the carpark.

Escape doors are always left clear.

The Health and Safety policy is available online.

Morning / Break / Home Time:



In the morning and at break times, upon hearing the school bell, children organise themselves into lines in the school yard, specific to their classes.

At home time, the junior infants remain in their class until their parent or guardian collects them at the classroom door. Senior infants are brought out into the yard for collection by their class teacher. All other pupils exit their classrooms and must remain within the confines of the school yard until such time as they are collected by their parents/guardians.

Teachers and parents are asked to follow traffic management instructions in the school.

5. Good behaviour

Objectives

- To encourage self-discipline, self-confidence and responsible behaviour in each child.
- To create a positive and a safe learning environment in which children can reach their full potential.
- To respect and gain an understanding of their own and other peoples beliefs, values and culture.
- That each member of the school community understands their role in contributing to the life of the school and the effect they have on the school environment and other people.
- Our aim is to ensure that every child is happy and confident coming to school and we constantly strive to create a safe, happy and positive environment for all our children.

Postive Affirmation

Teachers use various reward systems to promote, encourage, recognise and reward good behaviour, such as:

- Oral or written praise from the principal or classroom teachers.
- Prizes such as stickers, gold stars, stamps and certificates.
- Extra privileges such as extended play or 'golden time' where children can choose to partake in pleasurable table-top activities such as arts and crafts, reading or playing various games.

If a child behaviour is not in keeping with the school code, one or more of the following steps may be taken:

- A teacher will speak to the child and ask him/her to stop what it is they are doing.
- The child may be separated from the group for the safety of other children.
- A note is written home /The child's parent is spoken to.
- An improvement plan is agreed upon with parents and children. For example, a good behaviour card may be used.



6. Bullying

Gaelscoil Riada has an anti-bullying policy and does not accept any form of bullying.

Bullying is on-going, repeated and continuous verbal, psychological or physical abuse by a person or a group towards another child or children.

Gaelscoil Riada accepts the right of all members of the school community to enjoy the school in a safe environment; therefore we will deal with the topic of bullying in a serious manner. *The guidelines written in the school's anti bullying policy are followed and the main aim of the school is that bullying is seen as a negative action.*

Parents must inform the school of bullying as soon as possible, so that the situation can be investigated promptly, fairly and positively.

7. Homework

Children are given homework four evenings a week, from Monday to Thursday. There is no homework given on Fridays. Parents need to sign the homework nightly. The children from first class onwards have a homework diary.

Junior and Senior Infants receive the homework page each week. It is necessary for the parents to sign it. (They do not have a homework diary)

Additional information regarding homework is outlined in the school handbook which is given to all new junior infant parents at the open evening.

8. The Lunch Box

It is essential to have a **healthy** lunch every day.

Parents/ guardians are asked to give children fruit, vegetables, sandwiches and healthy drinks such as water, milk or low sugar fruit juice. A milk scheme is operated in school.

Chocolate, sweets, crisps and biscuits are prohibited. Due to allergies, nuts and nut products are also prohibited. We do not allow children to bring raw carrots into school unless they are grated.

9. The Litter System

A recycling system is in place in the school which enables children to care for their environment and to partake in 'Green Schools' activities.

- Children are asked to bring home any litter their lunch box may generate; therefore we encourage parents to put a little plastic bag and a clothes-peg in their child's lunch box. Any food they do not eat will also be sent home in the lunch box.



- All members of the school community are expected to respect, conserve and maintain our clean and tidy environment within the school grounds.

10. The School Uniform

It is essential that all children are dressed in their school uniform each day.

The children come to school in their school sports gear on Friday only.

It is important that parents / guardians ensure that clothes are clean and neat as they come to school every day.

11. Absence / illness

It is necessary to give the class teacher a note if your child is absent due to illness, outlining the reason for same. If children have a contagious illness, you must inform the class teacher in the interests of other children.

Teachers must be informed in advance of a planned absence such as a family event or a hospital/doctor's appointment.