

**Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí**



**POLASÁÍ DEA-IOMPAIR**  
**POLICY FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

Date Ratified by Board of Governors: January 2026

Date of Review: January 2029

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY FOR GAELSCOIL AN tSEANCHAÍ

### **ETHOS**

We desire that...

“At Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí, we provide our students with high-quality immersive education through the medium of Irish. We are dedicated to creating a nurturing environment where everyone’s rights are respected and upheld. We aim to inspire and challenge our students to achieve their fullest potential, creating an atmosphere for all to enjoy opportunities for life-long learning, promoting continuous growth with an emphasis on responsibility.” And “Through discipline and positive relationships, we cultivate a spirit of co-operation and mutual respect.”

This policy statement is an attempt to outline our approach to encourage high standards of behaviour in the school and the community. The underlying principle is to focus on positive as opposed to negative aspects of behaviour. There are 5 key aspects to the policy. All members of the school community (pupils, staff and family members) should:

- treat each other with respect and recognise a balance between rights and responsibilities
- refrain from raising their voice or shouting unnecessarily
- encourage each other to achieve their best
- create an atmosphere in which all feel safe and able to express themselves in an appropriate manner
- encourage and support each other to always express ourselves in Irish
- provide a nurturing environment in which self-esteem is promoted

The development of a Positive Behaviour Policy is governed by the following rules for children:

- we listen to instructions and explanations and give our best in all our work
- we listen to each other (without interrupting)
- we resolve conflict by talking about the issue
- we contribute to a peaceful atmosphere
- we treat school property with respect
- we stay within the playground/school boundaries
- we take pride in wearing our school uniform

The implementation of the above rules via a scheme of rewards and sanctions is adapted to suit each age group. The class teacher is central to this implementation and in doing this, will call upon his/her own professional judgement.

Acceptable behaviour is rewarded with sincere and frequent praise. Teachers implement their own scheme of rewards (stickers, small stationery items, an órga, by sharing good news with Malacháí or other staff etc) within their respective classrooms depending on the age and maturity of their children.

In the Naíscóil, one child from each class is chosen daily as ‘Réalt an Lae’. In the Gaelscoil, children who have made a special effort in the classroom or who have made their own contribution to school life are praised at weekly assemblies: R1 – R3 are presented with a certificate for being Gaeilgeoir or Dalta na Seachtaine and one pupil receives ‘Moladh an Phríomhoide’. One pupil from each R4 – R7 as well as being awarded ‘Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine’ or ‘Dalta na Seachtaine’ is recorded in Leabhar Órga na Scoile at the end of each month for the great effort made in their work and one pupil receives ‘Moladh an Phríomhoide’ every week. All these pupils have their photograph displayed in the school foyer and on the school website. Children can also be awarded an ‘on the spot’ moladh speisialta for very good effort speaking in Irish, being kind, helpful or thoughtful, which contributes to the house point system and monthly rewards.

Inappropriate behaviour, however, will result in sanctions which are primarily the responsibility of the class teacher. Sometimes it is necessary for the teacher to contact parents. However, in cases of persistent or more serious unacceptable behaviour, children will be brought to Malacháí. If inappropriate behaviour is consistent then Parents are usually contacted at this stage and in

exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to ask them to take their child home for the remainder of that day.

## SANCTIONS

As is the form regarding all disciplinary actions, it is essential that a pupil understands fully that it is the behaviour which is not acceptable and not the pupil as a person or their emotions. Our policy aims to educate children so they realise that they will have to accept the consequences of their decisions and actions if they make other children feel unsafe and unhappy in school, as in life outside of school.

Inappropriate behaviour will result in sanctions which are primarily the responsibility of the class teacher. Teachers will record breaches of discipline and the respective action taken. Pupils are made aware that such incidents are recorded by teachers.

We have a staged approach to managing challenging behaviour. Children exhibiting such behaviour will follow these steps:

- pupils brought together to discuss the impact of their behaviour on others or on staff with focus on restorative approaches to conflict resolution.
- be given one more chance
- supervised work at break time for Key Stage 2 pupils and a 5 minute time-out for those at Key Stage 1 to carry out reflective art.
- Teacher makes contact with parents.
- Principal speaks to child. Teacher may explain context to parent by phone. Parent may arrange a meeting with the Principal.

We have also implemented a 'Kind Hands' rule, which means that children are not allowed to put their hands on other children without consent or in a way that may hurt or annoy, even if this is done in a playful manner. We expect parents to support and cooperate with us for the good of the children.

Behaviours which require immediate attention of the Principal or senior staff:

1. Any act of vandalism or damage to school property or to staff property
2. Swearing or use of abusive language to any other person be they teacher, support staff or child.
3. Using threatening language or dangerous behaviours
4. Being involved in any actions which constitute a danger to other children or staff
5. "mitching" from school or running out of school
6. Tampering with fire fighting equipment.
7. Biting or physically hitting out and injuring another child or member of staff
8. Other serious incidents such as fighting

Such incidents may involve parents being called to a formal meeting in the school and restitution sought where property has been damaged. It may be advised/suggested that the child be brought to and collected from school by parents or removed from the school at lunch time. If such behaviours indicate a specific behavioural problem the child may be referred to the Local Impact Team for Behaviour Support Services or the Educational Psychologist for assessment.