



Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí

Tréadchúram – Pastoral Care

Ratified by Board of Governors: January 2026

Date of Review: January 2029

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care concerns the total welfare of the child. The pastoral aspect is inclusive of curriculum development, special needs, staff development, home - school links and a positive behaviour policy. The evaluation of the school's system of pastoral care is effective when the school policy and planning for pastoral care are fully implemented. This is then reflected in the quality of provision within and beyond the classroom and in the effectiveness of the support arrangements for individual pupils. At all levels of the caring process, all staff and pupils need to feel valued, safe and secure.

At Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí we:

- promote values and attitudes
- ensure that our teaching assists each pupil to reach his/her full potential in curricular and extra-curricular activities
- provide children with the social and life skills necessary for a successful and happy future
- develop home- school links in order to establish and maintain parental support and co-operation
- provide support for pupils who are experiencing difficulty functioning as members of the school community
- avail of the support of appropriate external agencies for the good of the pupil
- provide a safe and secure learning environment in which each child feels supported and valued
- ensure relevant, professional training for all our staff to meet these demands.
- Training of both teaching and non-teaching staff is led by the co-ordinator and school leadership
- create a working environment where each staff member feels supported and valued
- provide a culture which promotes inclusion

We achieve this by:

- providing an appropriate learning environment adequately resourced
- providing an extensive after-school programme
- encouraging all children to work to the best of their ability in school at home
- encouraging children to wear the appropriate school uniform and come to school with the necessary books and equipment
- showing respect for each other and for school property
- encouraging parents to support the teacher through their children's work and ensuring their children attend school regularly, punctually, in uniform, with all the requirements for the day
- liaising with parents through notes, notices on Dojo and the school website
- using the rewards systems based on personal and academic achievements

Nurture

Nurture forms a central part of the promotion of good Pastoral Care. Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí, in partnership with the Nurture Advisory & Support Service, has been promoting the following Key Principles of Nurture:

- A. Children's learning is understood developmentally
- B. The classroom offers a safe base
- C. Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem
- D. Language is understood as a vital means of communication
- E. All behaviour is communication
- F. Transitions are significant in the lives of children and young people

For the school years 2025-26 we have chosen to maximise and develop our spaces available to pupils, both internal and external, in line with our focus on nurture approaches: a Seomra Socair (multi-purpose sensory space and de-escalation space), Coirnéal ciún (quiet area foundation stage) as well as our area

for outdoor learning through play to help facilitate sensory experiences and provide opportunities for greater core, proprioceptive and vestibular development.

1. There is a welcoming and safe environment for all: children, staff and parents/carers, which encompasses all areas of the school both inside and outside
2. Boundaries are set and delivered clearly, fairly, with sensitivity and emotional warmth
4. There is good provision of safe spaces inside and outside to support emotional regulation and feelings of safety and security
5. Based on the individual needs of children, additional structure and supervision is provided by staff across the school, including at key times and in key areas
6. The school is sensitive in maintaining and promoting key nurturing relationships for the most vulnerable pupils across the school, for example, by giving key time with a specific staff member.

Comhairle na nDaltaí / The Pupil Council

The Pupil Council was established to give pupils a voice. It includes representatives from each of the classes in R4-7 and meets at least once a month.

The Council operates like any other committee and reports back the issues discussed to their class. The Council involves the children in decision-making within the school and allows children to express opinions and make staff aware of issues important to them in a forum where they are listened to and taken seriously. The Council encourages:

- pupil involvement in improving school life for everyone
- pupils to work as partners with staff in developing a safe, caring and inclusive school community
- the involvement of the children in solving problems and resolving conflict
- pupils to respect school property and its upkeep

Cairde an tSeanchaí / The Parents' and staff Committee

It is hoped that 2025-26 will bring about the foundation of a new parent/staff committee. The Committee welcomes and encourages:

- parent involvement in improving school life for everyone
- parents to work as partners with staff in developing a safe, caring and inclusive school community
- the organisation of various social events by parents to raise funds to buy resources to help pupil learning and build a pobal (community) around the school.