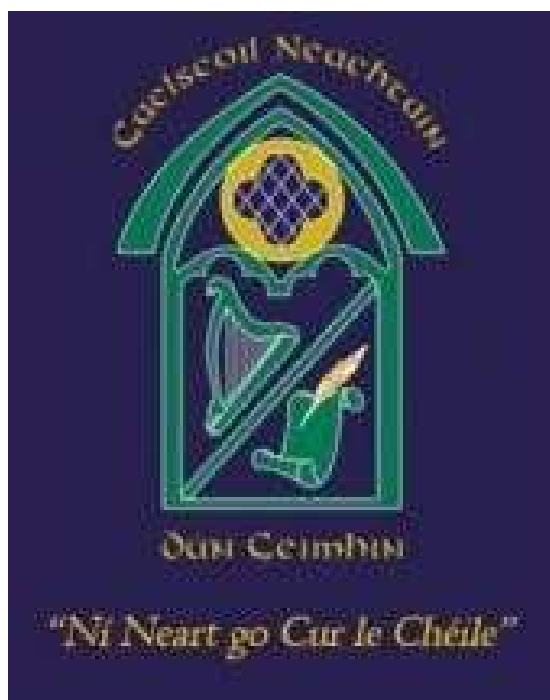


Gaelscoil Neachtain

Ní Neart go Cur le Chéile



Tuairisc Bhliantiúil Bhord na nGobharnóirí, 2021 – 2022.

**Board of Governors' Annual Report,
2021 – 2022.**

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Chairperson's Address, 2021- 2022

As the new school year, 2021-2022, began, we were still addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which dominated life in and out of school since March, 2020. The unsettling nature of COVID-19 affected children in many ways, not just academically. Providing stability for our children in all aspects of school life, be it academically, socially or spiritually, was our priority given there had been so much interruption in the previous two school years.

Academically, priority was given to Literacy and Numeracy at every level throughout the school. Following a cycle of base line assessment and identification of children's needs, followed by appropriate support and intervention, progress in learning was monitored on an ongoing basis.

Attention to Pastoral Care continued to permeate all aspects of school life with much emphasis being placed on the development of children's confidence and social skills.

It was great to see the return of sport with the Gaelscoil fielding teams in camogie, hurling and Gaelic football. Children in Ranganna 6 / 7 returned to swimming lessons in the Roe Valley Leisure Centre. The PE curriculum was broadened with the introduction of cross country running.

Thanks to the efforts of Teachers, Assistants, Parents and Carers and of course the children themselves, learning outcomes developed well throughout the year. We recognize, acknowledge and thank everyone involved.

Achieving the Eco Schools Green Flag was a great achievement for the Gaelscoil. We congratulate and commend all involved. Other worthwhile events included Seachtain na Gaeilge, Anti-Bullying Week, Mental Health Week and the children's ongoing fundraising with the St. Vincent de Paul and Trócaire being the main beneficiaries.

As the year progressed, an energy crisis and cost of living crisis emerged putting pressure on households and the public sector alike, including schools.

Going forward, we remain focused on the education, good health, safety and well-being of our whole school community – children, staff and families. We continue to address any gaps in educational attainment as a result of pandemic; we continue to review practice in the core curriculum subjects whilst also implementing the new code of practice for Special Educational Needs. Teachers continue their professional development and as always we manage the budget in the most beneficial way for all.

This year's report acknowledges the contributions of everyone in the Gaelscoil community - staff, children and parents.

Governors would also like to acknowledge and thank *Cairde Neachtain*, parents and friends of the Gaelscoil for their financial and other support for the school.

I commend this report and the work of the school to you and emphasise the importance of the ongoing partnership between Home and Gaelscoil.

Is Mise le Meas,

Emma Bn. Mhic Bhloscaidh,
Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors.

Leadership and Management Structure

Board of Governors – Membership

Governors represent trustees, EA, DENI, teachers and parents.

Cathaoirleach / Chairperson: Mr. Tim Gordon

Leas-Chathaoirleach / Vice-Chairperson: Emma Bn. Mhic Bhloscaidh

Ionadaithe Iontaobhaithe / Trustee Representatives:

Emma Bn. Mhic Bhloscaidh

Mrs. Celine McKenna

Liam Ó Flannagáin

Ionadaithe an Údarais Oideachais / Education Authority Representatives:

Mr. Tim Gordon

Déaglán Ó Doibhlin

Ionadaithe Tuismitheoirí / Parent Representatives:

Sarah Kelly

Seamus McLaughlin

Ionadaí Múinteoirí/ Teacher Representative: Róisín Mhic Thaidhg

Rúnaí / Secretary: Máirín Bn. Uí Cheallaigh. Non-voting Member

Responsibilities of Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. They are required to meet for a minimum of three times each year but in practice meet more often than this. Their range of duties and responsibilities are diverse and would include such things as:

- Oversight of the Curriculum
- Control of the School Budget
- Provision of information to parents
- Selection of staff
- Maintenance of premises - a responsibility shared with Education Authority
- Admissions Policy
- Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of mutual understanding
- Other duties not specifically listed above

Mission Statement of Gaelscoil Neachtain

Gaelscoil Neachtain is a co-educational, interdenominational, controlled, Irish-medium primary school. Here at Gaelscoil Neachtain, every child is encouraged, every day, to believe in his/her value as a person and, in turn, to value all others. Children, parents and staff, supported by the Board of Governors, work together to help each child achieve his/her potential as a confident bilingual in a safe and caring environment. We have high expectations for *all* our children. At Gaelscoil Neachtain, we appreciate the Irish language as a valuable, living heritage, and, embrace it to facilitate and enhance every child's learning potential. We foster, also, understanding and respect for all cultures and traditions and celebrate diversity. Gaelscoil Neachtain is a place of learning led by the Spirit, a place where the Christian ethos is fostered, a place where good character is nurtured.

Aims of Gaelscoil Neachtain

At Gaelscoil Neachtain, we recognise the spiritual, emotional, academic and physical needs of all children. We work together to create an atmosphere and ethos which contributes to their care, safety, well-being and learning. We recognise the place of parents as their children's first teachers and warmly welcome, and actively encourage, parents' participation in their children's learning. The staff work to provide successful learning and to tackle disadvantage so that every child can fulfil his / her potential. We are committed to ensuring continuous high standards through planning, practice, assessment and reflection. Gaelscoil Neachtain is committed to positively addressing all challenges, as they arise, with children's education and welfare being paramount in all decision making. By developing links with the local community, and beyond, Gaelscoil Neachtain aims to enrich the children's cultural and educational experience. Gaelscoil Neachtain aims to be a place of learning influenced by the Spirit, a place of kindness, a place where good character is fostered.

Gaelscoil Neachtain is a place of learning led by the Spirit, a place where the Christian ethos is fostered, a place where good character is nurtured. We welcome pupils from all faith and non-faith backgrounds. We serve the spiritual needs of each child according to the wishes of the parent.

Gaelscoil Neachtain Staffing Complement, 2021 – 2022.

Rang	Foireann / Staff	Seomra
Naíscóil	Múinteoir: Máire Mhic Eoin Cúntóir Ranga: Michelle Uí Chonchúir	Naíscóil Neachtain
Rang 1	Múinteoir: Danielle Nic Ailín Cúntóir Ranga: Loretta Mhic Dhaibhéid	Leacach
Rang 2	Múinteoir: Róisín Mhic Thaidhg Cúntóir Ranga: Michelle Mhic Oscair	Caiseal
Rang 3	Múinteoir: Orlaith Ní Mhaoláin Cúntóir Ranga: Caoimhe Uí Mhaoildeirg	Éadan
Rang 4	Múinteoir: Ellen Ní Uiginn Cúntóir: Brónagh Nig Riallais	Briseadh
Rang 5	Múinteoir: Gearóid Breathnach Cúntóir Ranga: Shannon Nic Lochlainn	Seomra 6
Rang 7	Múinteoir: Fionnuala Ní Dhufaigh Cúntóir Ranga: Carla Ní Dhochartaigh	Seomra 7

School Secretary: Mrs. Laoise McKeever

Caretaker: Mr. Anthony McReynolds

Catering Assistant: Mrs. Eileen McElhinney

Retirement

Crossing Patrol Officer / Lunchtime Supervisor / Cleaner: Mrs. Denise Friel. Denise retired on June 30th, 2022. We thank Denise sincerely for her ten years' service to Gaelscoil and Naíscóil Neachtain and wish her every blessing in the future.

Pastoral Care / Child Protection

We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the children in our charge and we carry out this responsibility through the Pastoral Care Policy and Child Protection Policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment to enable each child to reach his/her full potential. All staff who work in Gaelscoil Neachtain, both teaching and non-teaching, have been vetted through Access N.I. Structures and procedures are in place to protect our children by ensuring that everyone who works in the school, i.e. teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers, have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. All staff participated in Refresher Child Protection training during the school year.

Curriculum

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. To this end the school has implemented the statutory requirements of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum in Language and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy, the Arts, the World Around Us, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, Physical Development and Religious Education. The Department of Education have also set targets relating to the knowledge, skills and understanding which pupils are expected to have at various stages of their school life and have determined what the school should teach pupils at various stages.

Curricular Areas of Responsibility and Co-ordination

Area of Curriculum	Co-ordinator
Literacy	Róisín Mhic Thaidhg
Maths	Máirín Uí Cheallaigh
Special Educational Needs	Danielle Nic Ailín
ICT	Ellen Ní Uiginn
R.E.	Máirín Uí Cheallaigh
Safeguarding and Pastoral Care	Róisín Mhic Thaidhg / Fionnuala Ní Dhufaigh
The Arts	Ellen Ní Uiginn / Gearóid Breathnach
Sport	Gearóid Breathnach
The World Around Us	Fionnuala Ní Dhufaigh
Monitoring and Evaluation	Máirín Uí Cheallaigh

The Board of Governors, along with the Principal and Staff, ensure that the school continues to provide high quality education provision through a structured programme of staff development. Listed below are the areas that were the main priorities during the academic year.

Literacy

During the school year, the following areas were prioritised in Literacy –
Continued reinforcement of Polasaí na Gaeilge throughout Gaelscoil Neachtain to support children's recovery of spoken Irish; update and completion of a new Scheme of Work for English.
To use dictation to support the development of children's listening skills, phonic skills and sentence formation.

Mathematics

During the school year, the following areas were prioritised in Mathematics –
Identification and provision of intervention for gaps in children's Maths learning; R.1 – R.3: development, with increasing accuracy, children's formation of figures, 0-9. R.4 – R.7: development of written layout, to support understanding of Place Value, when recording Maths; Development children's measuring skills with particular attention to time; development of children's Mathematical language to support development of problem solving skills.

ICT

During the school year, the following areas were prioritised in ICT –
Development of Gaelscoil Neachtain's online platforms - *Classdojo*, Gaelscoil Website and Facebook; further development of practical ICT skills in every Key Stage with a view to achieving the Digital Schools award; further development of online learning provision across all year groups.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

During the school year, the following areas were prioritized in SEN –
Further implementation of the SEND Act; continuous Professional Development of SENCo and all staff; preparation and implementation of various elements of the new SEN Framework and Code of Practice; PLP training and dissemination to school staff as appropriate; development of an SEN Provision Map.

World Around Us

During the school year, the following areas were prioritized in the World Around Us –
Development of Eco-Schools within the school community to attain the Green Flag award;
Development of the outdoor classroom; relocation of Gairdín Neachtain; development of knowledge and understanding of Climate Change.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

During the school year, through following CEA curriculum, the following areas were prioritized in PDMU –
Support for children's emotional and social development, confidence, independence, and health and safety awareness; support for developing of their moral thinking, values and actions; development of children's mutual understanding in the local and wider community.

Physical Education (PE)

During the school year, the following areas were prioritised in PE –
Children's physical development, health and wellbeing; children's experience of a sense of fun, enjoyment and achievement through a variety of progressively challenging and innovative activities; developing children's understanding of the benefits of physical activity and the relationship between physical activity and good health; activities included *Daily Mile*, hurling, football and swimming.

The Arts

During the school year, the following areas were prioritised in The Arts –
Development of children's creativity and encouragement to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world through pictures, sound, drama and dance.

Additional Support to Enhance Curricular Provision / Extra Curricular Activities

Children, however, benefitted from the following activities -

- *Cairde Gael*
- *Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine*
- Teastas Peannaireachta
- *An Chomhairle Scoile / School Council*
- *An Coise Glas / Eco-Committee*
- *Daily Mile*
- Christmas Show video
- *Seachtain na Gaeilge*
- Participation by Rang 7 children in various local post-primary Open Days / Activity Days.
- Breakfast Club
- End of year trips
- Extra-curricular hurling
- Extra-curricular football

Monitoring and Evaluating Procedures

The following Monitoring and Evaluating Procedures remained in place during the school year, 2021 - 2022 –

- Principal met half-termly with Education Sub-Committee of Board of Governors.
- Education Sub-Committee reported to Board of Governors half-termly.
- Staff meetings
- Minutes of staff meetings
- Evaluation of staff workshops
- Classroom Observations
- Half termly evaluation of planners.
- Weekly / half-term review of pupil targets
- Co-ordinators monitor weekly / half-term plans against the agreed success criteria and provide feedback to teachers.
- Teacher observations to ensure classroom practice reflect short, mid and long-term planning.
- Classroom observation feedback.
- Book trawl
- Monitoring of *Friday Review*
- End of half-term assessment
- End of year assessment.
- Teacher feedback.

Pupil Progress and Standards of Attainment

Baseline Assessment in Literacy and Maths was carried out in Ranganna 3 – 7 at the beginning of September, 2021. Half-term assessment in Literacy and Maths was carried out throughout the school year. Gaelscoil Neachtain's end of year, standardised assessment took place in May 2022.

As happened in the school year 2020 – 2021, the Council for Curriculum, Examinations

and Assessment (CCEA) informed all primary schools that End of Key Stage data was not required for the academic year 2021 – 2022. Gaelscoil Neachtain continues to closely monitor and track the progress of all our pupils and meet regularly to discuss children’s progress across the Gaelscoil. All assessment results are analysed and inform future planning. Annual written reports were sent to parents on Friday, 17th June, 2022.

Enrolment and Transfer to Post-Primary School

Enrolment 2021 - 2022

Open Enrolment

We were allocated twenty-one places for admission to Rang 1 in September, 2021, and received sixteen applications, all of whom were accepted.

Transfer to Post-Primary

Twelve pupils transferred to Post-Primary Education in September, 2022.

School	Number of Pupils Transferring
Gaelcholáiste Dhoire	8
St. Patrick’s College, Dungiven	2
Loreto College, Coleraine	2

Faith Development

Mass for Beginning of School Year 2021 – 2022: Thursday, 21st October.

Adoration Programme: Ranganna 5,6,7.

Service of Light: 2nd February, 2022.

Confirmation: 19th March, 2022.

First Sacrament of Penance: 7th April, 2022.

First Holy Communion: 7th May, 2022.

Fundraising and Charitable / Pastoral Events

Gaelscoil Neachtain supported St. Vincent de Paul Society and Trócaire through a number of fundraising events during the school year 2021 – 2022.

Communication

During the school year, 2021 – 2022, the Gaelscoil Neachtain App, *Class Dojo*, was the main means of general communication. E-mail was also used by class teachers to communicate with parents, as appropriate. Communication by phone was also used as appropriate.

School Attendance

Pupil attendance for the school year 2021 – 2022 was 93.8%.

FINANCE – Local Management of Schools (LMS)

The budget for the school year 2021-2022 was £525 769 plus £100 687 extra funding re. COVID-19. The school budget is robustly monitored by the Principal and the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors. The majority of our expenditure is on staff and running costs, e.g. lighting, heating, etc. Regular meetings of the Board of Governors ensure that the budget is best spent to provide a quality education for our children.

Cairde Neachtain

Gaelscoil Neachtain is very grateful to our parents' association, Cairde Neachtain, for their ongoing support, financial and otherwise. The Board of Governors recognises and appreciates the ongoing work of Cairde Neachtain, and of all parents and friends, who support Gaelscoil Neachtain in any way. Go raibh céad maith agaibh.

Buíochas / Thanks

The Board of Governors wishes to thank all members of the school community who supported, and contributed to, the development of Gaelscoil Neachtain during the school year 2021-2022:

- The pupils for their enthusiasm, willingness to learn and for their co-operation with teachers and staff.
- The parents for their co-operation, help and support for their children, for staff and for the Gaelscoil generally.
- Principal and all teaching and non-teaching staff, for their dedication, hard work and commitment.
- *Cairde Neachtain* for ongoing support.
- Fr. Kelly for his ongoing support.

*Thank-you for your time in considering this report. Dia leat is le do chúram.
Gaelscoil Neachtain*

Ní Neart go Cur le Chéile

www.gaelscoilneachtain.com