

GAELSCOIL NEACHTAIN



POLASÁÍ don DEA-IOMPAR **Positive Behaviour Policy**

Mission Statement

The staff and management of Gaelscoil Neachtain aim to provide a safe, caring environment in which pupils have the opportunity to reach their full potential, within an Irish-medium immersion environment.

The staff and management wish to create a stimulating atmosphere in which both pupils and staff are happy and secure and in which they have every opportunity to grow and develop and to get the very best from their abilities.

Speaking of Irish

In keeping with the Gaelscoil ethos, children and staff should make every effort, where possible, to speak Irish within the Gaelscoil and on all outings. *Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine* and the house system – Uladh, Mumhan, Laighean agus Connacht – are in place to motivate, and reward, children in this respect.

Aims of a Positive Behaviour Policy

The aims of the Positive Behaviour Policy are to:

1. To create a calm and caring community;
2. To enhance the pupils' self-esteem and self-worth;
3. To encourage self-respect and respect for other;
4. To promote learning and teaching;
5. To encourage pupils to develop independence by accepting responsibility for their own behaviour;
6. To promote self-discipline and self-control;
7. To develop interpersonal skills that will help pupils to work co-operatively, solve problems, develop relationships and resolve conflict appropriately;
8. To acknowledge and reward good behaviour.

The support of all parents will be sought to ensure the Gaelscoil's policy on Positive Behaviour Management is to be effective.

POLICY STAKEHOLDERS

Pupils' Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

Pupils have the right to:

- feel safe
- be valued as members of the Gaelscoil community
- get help when they seek it
- be treated fairly, consistently and with respect
- be consulted about matters that affect them, and have their views listened to and, as far as is reasonable, acted upon

- be taught in a pleasant, calm, well managed, positive and safe environment
- benefit from learning opportunities
- work and play within clearly defined and fairly administered codes of conduct
- experience a broad, balanced and suitably differentiated curriculum, and to have any special needs identified and met
- develop and extend their interests, talents and abilities

Responsibilities

Pupils have a responsibility to:

- arrive in school on time, with homework done and prepared for the lessons in the day ahead
- respect the views, rights and property of others, and behave safely in and out of class
- work to the best of their ability
- co-operate in class with the teacher and with their peers
- be well-mannered
- be well behaved and abide by the classroom / whole school rules
- seek help if they do not understand or are in difficulties
- take care of each book and resource that they use in school
- accept responsibility for their own behaviour and learning, and to develop the skill of working independently

Staff Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

- work in an environment where common courtesies and social conventions are respected
- express their views and to contribute to policies which they are required to reflect in their work
- a suitable career structure and opportunities for professional development
- support and advice from senior colleagues and external bodies
- adequate and appropriate accommodation and resources
- Teachers have the right to be able to teach effectively, free from unnecessary hindrance and with the co-operation of everyone involved

Responsibilities

- behave in a professional manner at all times
- be punctual
- be neat and tidy in appearance
- ensure that lessons are well-prepared, making use of available resources
- ensure that homework is appropriately set and constructively marked
- show interest in and enthusiasm for the work at hand, and in their pupils' learning

- listen to the pupils, value their contributions and respect their views
- identify and seek to meet pupils' special educational needs through the SEN Code of Practice
- share with parents any concerns they have about their child's progress or development
- actively establish positive relationships with pupils and parents
- expect high standards and acknowledge positively, effort and achievement
- pursue opportunities for personal and professional development

Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

Parents have a right to:

- A safe, caring, well-managed and stimulating environment for their child's education
- A broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum for their child
- Reasonable access to Gaelscoil staff and to have their enquiries and concerns dealt with sympathetically and efficiently
- Be informed promptly if their child is ill or has an accident or if the Gaelscoil has concerns about their child
- Be well informed about their child's progress
- Receive regularly updated information on their child's academic progress and behaviour
- Be well informed about the Gaelscoil rules and procedures
- Be involved in key decisions about their child's education, in particular, regarding those children with special educational needs
- A suitably resourced school with adequate and well-maintained accommodation
- Have their child's work planned, corrected and assessed on an on-going basis

Responsibilities

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and arrives in good time
- Make all reasonable attempts to ensure punctuality, attendance, good sleep patterns, hygiene and good behaviour
- Ensure that their child is suitably equipped for all lessons
- Show interest in their child's class-work and homework;
- Ensure that homework is monitored, completed and signed
- Be aware of class / whole Gaelscoil rules and procedures, and encourage their child to abide by them
- Act as positive role models for their child in their relationship with the school
- Attend planned meetings with teachers and support school functions

- Provide the Gaelscoil with all the necessary background information about the child, including, telling the school promptly about any concerns they have about the Gaelscoil
- Inform the Gaelscoil promptly of any significant changes in their child's medical needs or home circumstances or any concerns about a child
- Ensure that their child wears a school uniform and a coat when appropriate
- Read with their child on a regular basis
- Attend Parents' Workshops

PLANS USED TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We recognise that children need to feel secure and safe in order to grow and develop, take responsibility for themselves, make choices and become independent learners. We believe that it is therefore important that rules and boundaries are established within the class and school generally, and that children, staff and parents are aware of these rules and reasoning behind them. We also firmly believe that positive recognition helps to motivate children to follow the rules of the school.

General Rules

- Pupils should walk quietly, in single file, from one area to another in the school
- Pupils are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to drink during the day
- Pupils should wear school uniform every day.

Classroom Rules

Pupils should:

- Listen to the teacher
- Listen to each other
- Raise hand to speak
- Show respect for each other
- Keep hands and feet to themselves
- Walk quietly when moving from place to place in the school
- Speak Irish

Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1 and 2 have appropriate strategies in place to communicate these rules, e.g. traffic lights in Foundation Stage and yellow / red cards in Key Stages 1 and 2.

In the playground

Pupils should:

- play safely with other pupils;
- wear a coat in cold weather;
- not leave the playground without permission;

Toilets

Pupils should:

- flush the toilet, wash and dry their hands;
- keep the toilets clean;
- report any problem to the teacher.

On the Bus / In the Taxi

Pupils should:

- wait in line with the teacher who is on duty;
- sit quietly and fasten the seat belt;
- keep bags and boxes closed;
- not speak to the driver without a good reason.

School Trips

Pupils should:

- always stay with the designated member of staff
- obey all rules/instructions given by teacher/supervisor/instructor
- keep in mind that they are representing Gaelscoil Neachtain and act appropriately

Rewards and Privileges

At Gaelscoil Neachtain, we use a variety of strategies to promote positive behaviour.

To be effective, rewards must:

- follow immediately;
- be realistic;
- be applied consistently;

Social rewards:

- a quiet, encouraging word;
- a public word of praise in class or assembly, giving reason for praise;
- display of work;
- award from another teacher/Principal;
- oral / written communication with parents.

Material Rewards

- reward chart
- stickers/stars
- happy face
- class prizes
- special trips

Honour Rewards

- positive marking comments in the exercise book;
- certificates for different aspects of school life, e.g. Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine

Privileges

- extra time on a preferred activity
- position of responsibility, e.g. *Cara Gael*, member of School Council.

Sanctions

In Gaelscoil Neachtain we avoid sanctions when support strategies will suffice. When considering or applying sanctions, the teacher must:

- ensure that the pupil understands what he / she has done;
- establish that he/she understands that the behaviour is unacceptable;
- help the pupil understand the effect his/her behaviour has on others;
- discuss and provide strategies for the child to avoid the same situation in the future;
- not discipline a class or a group because of the actions of an individual.

The range of actions include -

- praising another child who is obeying the rules when a child is disobeying them, ensuring that he/she understands why the other child is being praised;
- asking a child to apologise;
- asking a child to stand aside for a time while an adult finds out what has happened or diffuses the situation;
- use of yellow card / red card
- a calm, verbal reprimand
- changes in seating arrangements (cárta buí);
- Time for written reflection at break-time / lunch-time (Second cárta buí = cárta dearg)
- referral to the Principal

- when a child's behaviour is affecting the learning environment, a child may be sent to the Principal
- contacting parents to inform of the pupil's behaviour, establishing a plan of action to resolve the difficulties;
- suspensions (according to EA procedures)
- expulsions (according to EA procedures)

Links with Other Policies

Our policy for positive behaviour is closely linked with other policies:

- Pastoral Care
- Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- DENI guidelines on the Use of Reasonable Force in Schools
- Polasaí na Gaeilge

Involvement with Outside Agencies

Gaelscoil Neachtain works closely with the following organisations:

- Education Welfare Service
- Educational Psychology Service
- Primary Behaviour Support Provision

Working with Parents

To ensure effective learning in a bilingual setting, we depend on parental co-operation and on-going support. We enlist parents' help regularly and offer different strategies to promote good behaviour at regular meetings and when necessary. Parents will be contacted at an early stage if there are serious concerns about their child's behaviour.

A Behaviour Tracking Sheet may be used to keep a record of a child's behaviour pattern.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored on a continual basis and is reviewed as and when necessary.