

Dúnghaois Churaclam Ghaelscoil an Chaistil **Curriculum Policy**

Aidhmeanna / Aims

Ba mhaith le Gaelscoil an Chaistil Gaeloideachas den scoth a sholáthar do pháistí na scoile seo / Gaelscoil an Chaistil's aim is to provide a high level of Gaelic medium education to the children in this school.

Gaelscoil an Chaistil follows the immersion method of education which allows children to acquire the language naturally through daily experience of a linguistically and culturally enriched environment. Gaelic is the primary language of instruction and communication within our school; however there is also significant emphasis on the formal teaching of English. Biliteracy in Gaelic and English is encouraged and valued.

The following areas of learning are delivered:

- Literacy (Gaelic and English)
- Numeracy
- Personal Development
- The World Around Us (History, Geography and Science)
- The Arts (Music, Drama, Art)
- Physical development
- Language and cultural awareness

All areas of study are covered comprehensively and to a high standard, ensuring that children experience a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum — one that is built upon in a progressive and continuous way throughout a child's school career. Teaching staff meet on a regular basis to review and develop curriculum areas.

The curriculum offered in Gaelscoil an Chaistil encompasses all elements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and is designed to give a broad and balanced education to all children and to present all children with experiences suitable to their current stages of development. We value the Gaelic language in Gaelscoil an Chaistil and recognise that it allows us to explore a commonality that goes beyond shores and borders, a language, an associated heritage of music, legend, folklore and a common knowledge. Within our curriculum we hope to enable our children to use the knowledge of Gaelic to build bridges, to create another space in which to meet and appreciate our fellow Gaelic nations, as well as connecting us in a wider community of global diversity.

In our school we place a very high importance on the development of the child as a student and as a person. Therefore we place great significance on teaching subjects and on the relationships between staff, children and parents (guardians). Parental support of the education of their children is directed and guided so that it will be as effective as possible. A curriculum evening is arranged during the first term to give parents the opportunity to become familiar with the areas of tuition for the forthcoming year. Two parent / teacher review meetings are arranged during the first and second term and, throughout the school year, the principal and teachers are available to meet parents at mutually convenient times to discuss other curricular matters and the welfare of the children. Information sessions may be arranged from time to time so that parents can be kept up to date on specific areas of development within the school.

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, children should progressively develop:

Cross-Curricular Skills:

Communication

Using Mathematics

Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making

Self-Management

Working with Others

Managing Information

Being Creative

Náí-aonad / Nursery Unit

Within our statutory Nursery we follow the immersion method of education which allows children to acquire the language naturally through daily experience of a linguistically and culturally enriched environment. We offer the Northern Ireland Pre-School curriculum which covers the following areas – **The World around us; The Arts; Language acquisition; Early mathematical experiences; Physical development and movement and Personal, social and emotional development.** Through our Early Years Team we implement a transition process to prepare nursery children for transition to Rang 1.