



# Bileog Colais

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Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn

Trá Lí





**Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn**

**Bóthar Chillín,**

**Trá Lí,**

**Co. Chiarraí**

**Príomhoide:** Cáit Uí Chonchúir

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*Fáilte*

**Fáilte romhat go dtí Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn, Bóthar Chillín, Trá Lí. Sa leabhrán seo gheobhaidh tú eolas ar an scoil seo 'gainne móide cúpla nod ar conas cabhrú le do leanbh socrú síos sa 'scoil mhór'. Ag súil le aithne a chur ar do leanbh agus ort sa bhliain atá romhainn.**

Welcome to Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn. This booklet will give you a brief resume of the Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn story as well as a few tips for the parents of New Beginners. Looking forward to getting to know your child and yourself during the coming years.

*Cait Uí Chonchúir*

**Príomhoide**

## Our History

Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn is a total-immersion all-Irish Catholic national school which was founded by the Tralee branch of Conradh na Gaeilge in 1978 to provide Irish-medium education at primary level for Tralee and its environs.

## Total Immersion Education

In an immersion education model all subjects are taught through the medium of a designated language. Irish is the working language of a 'gaelscoil' and pupils follow the standard curriculum as laid out by the Department of Education and Skills. Through this system pupils achieve a high level of fluency in both English and Irish.

### **Advantages of Immersion Education**

Some of the documented advantages of immersion education include:-

#### **Curriculum Advantages**

1. Greater academic success
2. Easier to learn a third and fourth language.

### **Communicative Advantages**

3. Bilingualism (the ability to speak two language fluently).
4. Biliteracy (the ability to read and write in two languages)
5. Wider communication (extended family, community, friends, employment).

### **Cultural Advantages.**

6. Broader exposure to and appreciation of the value of various cultures (enculturation), deeper multiculturalism, greater tolerance and less racism.

### **Cognitive Advantages**

7. Thinking benefits (creativity, sensitivity to communication).

### **Character Advantages.**

8. Raised self-esteem.
9. Security in identity.

### **Financial Advantages**

10. Economic and employment benefits..

*(Adapted by Gaelscoileanna Teo. From Baker, 2003)*

## **Faith and Spirituality**

Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn is under the Patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Kerry. Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn provides Religious education for pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith. Each year we prepare pupils for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.

### **Must you be fluent in Irish to send your child to a Gaelscoil?**

No. Over 90% of parents becoming involved in a Gaelscoil for the first time cannot speak Irish.

Are there language classes available for parents who would like to learn Irish? Yes, Details of location and time of classes will be available in September.

## School Day

School Hours	8.50 r.n. - 1.30 i.n. Naíonáin (Infants)
	8.50 r.n. - 2.30 i.n. Class 1-6
Morning Break	10.30 r.n. - 10.40 r.n.
Lunch	12.15 i.n. - 12.45 i.n.

The school authorities accept no responsibility for children on the school premises before 8.50am or after 2.30pm. Please keep us informed as regards the collection of your child and especially of any changes of personnel.

## Teaching and Learning

It is our aim that the child is central to the learning process in the school and that they achieve their potential in the different curricular areas. Parents are kept up to date on their children's progress at the annual Parent/Teacher Meetings and in the intervening time if necessary.

## **School Development Planning**

School Development Planning is an ongoing process aimed at improving school effectiveness. Parents are welcome to come to the school and examine our plans/policies. This can be done by making an appointment with the Secretary.

## **Social Action**

Reflecting our Catholic ethos the children participate in various fundraising activities throughout the year and the proceeds go to various charities.

## **Child Protection**

Under updated Children First (2011) and DES Child Protection Guidelines (2011) all primary schools are now obliged to teach the Stay Safe Programme. All our teachers teach the Stay Safe Programme appropriate to their own class level.

## **Health**

Please inform the office and the class teacher if your child has any special health requirements.



## Healthy Food

It is school policy that healthy food only be allowed in lunch boxes from Monday to Thursday. **Sweets, chocolate, crisps, biscuits and fizzy drinks** are forbidden. One treat is allowed on Friday, if you wish.

## Safety of Children

For safety reasons children may not walk through the staff car park. We would appreciate if you would park your car outside the school grounds, avoiding the space reserved for buses and direct your child to the pedestrian entrance.

Please collect children immediately after school. Children who go home by bus should wait beside the main gate and well in from the roadway.

Please impress on your child the importance of keeping the rules of the road and especially those concerning the pedestrian crossing.

## **Attendance**

Please write an explanatory note if your child is absent for any reason, or arriving late in the morning. We are obliged to report all absences of 20 days to the Education Welfare Officer.

## **Swimming Lessons**

As part of our physical educational curriculum swimming classes are organised for Third Class during one term each year. We also have a Committee that organises swimming lessons for anyone interested, in the Sports Complex after school each Monday. We are very grateful to the members of this committee.

## **Contact Numbers**

Please ensure that the school secretary has up to date contact numbers. It would be very helpful if these numbers were also written in the Homework Diary. The school often uses "Textaparent" as a form of communication.

## **Grievance procedure**

If you are concerned about your child please follow the correct procedure.

Ring the office to make an appointment to meet the class teacher. You should inform the Secretary of the reason for the appointment at this time. Parents are asked not to disturb teachers during class time. If further discussion is required you may ring the office to make an appointment to meet the Principal. If further discussion is required you may write to the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Issues and concerns in relation to your child and the school should be discussed in the school with the teaching staff and the Principal.

## **Emergencies**

In the event of a child becoming ill, and the staff failing to contact parents/guardians, it is the policy of the Board of Management that the staff will make whatever decision they think necessary in the interest of the child's health (e.g take child to a doctor or a hospital)

## Promoting Good Behaviour

A Certificate is presented each week for the "Pupil of the Week". When deciding on the successful candidate we take into account;

- Speaking Irish,
- Manners,
- School/Homework,
- School Uniform,
- Neatness etc.

## Sports Hall

We are very lucky to have a hall in our school. This is a wonderful amenity and provides the opportunity to play games such as football, hurling, netball and basketball as well as regular weekly P.E. lessons. The stage is used on a regular basis for many other occasions.

## Culture

The school takes part in competitions, events etc, that support our language and culture; for example An Fhéile Drámaíochta, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Feis Chiarraí, Coirm and St. Patrick's Day events, etc.

A Christmas Concert is produced in the school hall every second year.

We are very proud of our school band.

## Extra Curricular Activities

- Girls School Football Team
- Boys School Football Team
- School Hurling Team
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Swimming Lessons
- Drama Competitions
- Choir
- School Band
- Quiz time

- Feis na Gaeilge
- Storytelling Competitions
- Singing Competitions
- Church Music
- Radio Programme
- Educational Trips
- Interschool Céilí etc.
- German
- Basic Irish Classes for Parents
- JEP - Junior Entrepreneur Programme

**School Uniform** available from Seán Hussey, Dan Fitzgerald & Shaws.

### Girls

- Cream blouse
- Brown pinafore or trousers
- Brown round necked cardigan with one cream stripe at neck and wrist.
- Brown/cream socks or tights.
- Brown/black shoes
- **Track Suit**
- White polo shirt
- Runners
- Crested hoodie

- **Boys**
- Cream shirt
- Brown pants
- Brown round necked jumper with one cream stripe at neck and wrist.
- Brown socks
- Brown/black shoes
- **Track suit**
- White polo shirt
- Runners
- Crested hoodie

## Parents Council

This committee helps with the work of the school. They hold regular meetings throughout the year usually once a month. They help by fundraising, helping at school events etc. The AGM usually takes place in September when the new committee is elected.

This is a great way for new parents of the school to get involved and to get to know other parents in the school. Our school would not be able to carry on without the financial support of this group of people who give most generously of their time and resources.

## Preparing your child for School

Before starting school, every child should be able to:

- Remove and hang up his/her coat
- Use the toilet without parental assistance
- Wash his/her hands unassisted
- Open and eat their lunch unaided
- Play companionably and co-operate with other children.
- Recognise their own school bag and lunch box and be able to open and close it themselves.

Write your child's name on all of their belongings. You are encouraged to watch TG4 and listen to Radio na Gaeltachta with your child and to use any Irish you have with your child at home. Decide on a bedtime for your child and adhere to it. Infants get very tired at school. You could give your child opportunities to practise "school activities" e.g. playing, drawing, word games, opening and closing their lunch box and looking at books.



# The First Day

It is not unusual for children to be anxious and upset on the first day of school. With this in mind parents are welcome to come and stay in the classroom for a few minutes, however, the class teacher will be unable to begin teaching while you are still in the room. The school will ring you if your child does not settle. It is best to seat your child and get him/her some activity to keep them busy.

When the time comes to leave it is best to say a definite, firm goodbye and to leave immediately. The teachers are very experienced when it comes to first days at school and will know how to settle and cheer children. If you are emotional or upset on the day please do not allow your child to see this. The fact that the children will have been to visit the school and have already met their teacher during the open afternoon will help greatly.

We would ask that parents stagger their arrival on this day between 8.50am - 9.20am so that the Class Teacher will be able to greet each child as they arrive. Please introduce your child by their name to the teacher on the first day to help the teacher to get to know all of the children in the class. It may happen that a few weeks will pass before the tears stop, but little by little; day by day everyone will settle comfortably and happily.

# “Mol an Éige is Tioctaidh Sí”







