



Réamhrá

Chuir an fhoireann i gcomhairle le páistí na scoile agus le tuistí na scoile an polasaí seo le chéile agus faoi bhráid an Bhoird Bainistíochta thar tréimhse sa scoilbhliain 2017/18 agus 2018/19. Bhí polasaí Gaeilge againn i bhfeidhm ó 2006 agus bhí gá le hathbhreiniú a dhéanamh air chun caighdeán láidir na Gaeilge a choinneáil sa scoil. Sa pholasaí seo tá inchur ón ár Ráiteas Misean, ón Acht Oideachais 1998 agus ó pholasaí na Gaeilge an Fhorais Pátrúnachta.

...ón Ráiteas Misean

- ❖ Is í Gaelscoil na Lochanna an chéad gaelscoil bunaithe i gceantar na lochanna, Co. Chill Mhantáin. Is mian linn ár ndícheall a dhéanamh Gaeilge a chothú, ní amháin taobh istigh den scoil féin, ach mar theanga ghníomhach sa cheantar iomlán.
- ❖ Is mian linn sár-oideachais trí mheán na Gaeilge a sholáthar sa scoil.
- ❖ Is mian linn an cultúr Gaelach ina iomlán, a bhunú agus a bhuanú i saol na scoile.

1. An tAcht Oideachais 1998 15:

(1) Is é dualgas boird an scoil a bhainistiú thar cheann an phátrúin agus ar mhaithe leis na mic léinn agus a dtuismitheoirí agus oideachas cuí a sholáthar nó a chur faoi deara é a sholáthar do gach mac léinn ar an scoil a bhfuil freagracht ar an mbord sin ina leith.

(2) Comhlíonfaidh bord na feidhmeanna a thugtar dó agus do scoil leis an Acht seo agus, le linn do bhord a fheidhmeanna a chomhall-

(a) déanfaidh sé amhlaidh de réir na mbeartas a chinnfidh an tAire ó am go ham,

(b) déanfaidh sé spioraid saineúil na scoile, mar a chinntear é de réir na luachanna agus na dtraidisiún cultúrtha, oideachais, morálta, creidimh, sóisialta, teangeolaíochta agus spioradálta is bun le cuspóirí agus stiúradh na scoile agus is saintréithe den chéanna, a chosaint agus beidh sé cuntasach don phátrún as iad a chosaint amhlaidh, agus gníomhóidh sé i gcónaí de réir aon Achta den Oireachtas nó aon ionstraime arna déanamh faoin gcéanna, agus de réir aon ghníomhais, cairte, airteagal bainistíochta nó aon ionstraime eile den sórt sin a bhaineann le bunú nó le hoibriú na scoile.

(c) Rachaidh sé i gcomhairle leis an bPátrún agus coinneoidh sé ar an eolas é nó í maidir le cinntí agus tograí do chuid an bhoird.

2. Scoil Lán-ghaeilge.

(a) Is scoil lán-Ghaeilge í Gaelscoil na Lochanna ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge ina

teanga 1 na scoile

teanga ghnó agus chumarsáide na scoile

teanga theagaisc + fhoghlamtha i ngach ábhar seachas Béarla

teanga chaidrimh idir múinteoirí iad féin

teanga chaidrimh idir múinteoirí agus na daltaí

teanga chaidrimh idir na daltaí féin agus

i ngach rud a bhaineann le saol na scoile taobh istigh nó taobh amuigh den scoil.

(b) Labhrófar an Ghaeilge i gcónaí sa scoil, sa chlós, ar an mbus scoile, ar thurasanna scoile agus le linn imeachtaí iar-scoile.

3. An Tumoideachas

(a) Is é an tumoideachas an córas oideachais a chuirtear i bhfeidhm i nGaelscoil na Lochanna. Ciallaíonn sé seo go bhfuil na daltaí báite sa Ghaeilge óna gcéad lá ar scoil. Labhróidh an múinteoir, Gaeilge amháin leis na daltaí ón gcéad lá a thosnaíonn siad ar scoil. Tá na blianta sna ranganna Naíonáin fíorthábhachtach dá réir. Cuirtear an Tumoideachais i bhfeidhm sna naíonáin go sroichtear deireadh Téarma 1 sa rang Naíonáin Mhóra (Mí na Nollag) ó 2019 ar aghaidh. Eileofar ar pháistí naí mhóra Gaeilge amháin a úsáid sa scoil tar éis Seachtain an Gaeilge i Naí Mhóra (ó 2020 tar éis an tréimhse tumoideachais a leathnú).

(b) Ní foláir do na leanaí caighdeán a bhaint amach chomh luath agus is féidir. Leis an bpolasaí seo sealbhóidh na daltaí an Ghaeilge go nádúrtha agus go héasca.

4. Múinteoireacht

1. Déanfar gach ábhar (ach amháin Béarla) trí Ghaeilge i dtimpeallacht spreagúil thaitneamhach.
2. Déanfar na scileanna réamhléitheoireachta, réamh scríbhneoireachta agus scileanna réamhmhata go hiomlán trí Ghaeilge. Tosnóidh léitheoireacht i dTeanga 1 ar dtús mar atá leagtha síos ag an gCuraclam. Múintear gach ábhar ar chlár na bunscoile trí mheán na Gaeilge ach amháin an Béarla.
3. Is trí mheán na Gaeilge amháin a thabharfar gach míniú, soiléiriú agus sainmhíniú focal, téarmaí agus srl., i ngach ábhar ach amháin i gcás an Bhéarla.
4. Sa chás go mbíonn daltaí na Gaelscoile á n-ullmhú i gcóir na Sacraimintí tá sé intuigthe gur trí mheán na Gaeilge amháin a dhéanfar an t-ullmhúchán seo agus gur trí Ghaeilge a chuirfear searmanais ar fáil ar an lá.
5. Glactar leis gur as Gaeilge a dhéanfaidh na múinteoirí Oideachas Speisialta agus an Múinteoir Achmhainne a gcuid oibre ar fad ach amháin nuair a bhíonn obair Bhéarla ar siúl.

5. Cumarsáid

(a) Is é polasaí na Gaelscoile seo gurb í an Ghaeilge an teanga chumarsáide idir na daltaí i gcónaí i gclós na scoile. Déanfar foclóir an chlóis a mhúineadh do na daltaí.

(b) Is trí dhea-shampla agus trí dhea-chleachtas a ghlacfaidh na daltaí le polasaí na Gaeilge sa Ghaelscoil. Mar sin, beidh múinteoirí agus foireann uile na scoile le cloisint ag úsáid na Gaeilge i ngach gné den lá scoile taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh don seomra ranga, eatarthu féin, le páistí agus le haon duine fásta eile a thagann chun na scoile.

6. Riarachán Scoile

(a) Beidh Gaeilge liofa ag rúnaí na Gaelscoile. Labhróidh sé/sí an Ghaeilge le páistí agus le múinteoirí agus i gcás na dtuistí labhróidh sé/sí Gaeilge leo chomh fada agus is féidir. Beifear ag súil go mbeadh Gaeilge ag cúntóirí ranga agus go labhróidh siad Gaeilge le páistí, múinteoirí, tuistí agus eatarthu féin. I gcás nach bhfuil Gaeilge ar a dtoil acu, ní labhróidh siad Béarla os comhair na ndaltaí. Is cuid d'fhoireann na scoile gach fostaí

sa scoil agus tá dualgas orthu an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus nach ndéanfaidh siad spiorad saineúil na scoile a shárú, a íslíú nó a dhísbeagadh in aon slí.

(b) Is cuid lárnach de chód iompair na scoile seo labhairt na Gaeilge. Is tré mhealladh agus spreagadh an tslí is fearr chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn - mealladh, moladh, duaiseanna, turas scoile breise, am spraoi breise. I gcásanna nach n-éiríonn leis seo cuirfear i bhfeidhm na céimeanna atá leagtha síos sa Pholasáí Riail na Gaeilge (féach thíos).

(c) Cuirfear ar fáil do thuismitheoirí nua, foclóir de na téarmaí is coitianta a bheidh ar nótaí eolais ón scoil. Cuirfear fógraí agus nótaí ar fáil i nGaeilge amháin nó go dátheangach i rith na scoilbhliana.

(d) Cuirfidh an Bord Bainistíochta in iúl do chuartheoirí ar ghnó oifigiúil chuig an scoil go dteastaíonn ón scoil go mbeadh Gaeilge ag na cuairteoirí seo, nó go ndéanfaidís fíor-iarracht pé Gaeilge atá acu a úsáid le linn a gcuarite.

7. Tuismitheoirí / Caomhnóirí

(a) Tá sé fíor-thábhachtach go bhfuil spéis dáiríre ag na tuistí sa Ghaeilge. Cuirfear tuistí ar an eolas roimh chlárúchán a bpáiste faoi shainmheon Ghaelach na Gaelscoile agus an meas atá air a mhíniú, chun a ndearcadh agus dearcadh an Bhoird i leith na Gaeilge a roinnt. Beifear ag súil go bhfuil tiomantas acu don Ghaeilge.

(b) Sula gclárófar aon pháiste mar dhalta sa Ghaelscoil iarrfar ar na tuistí / caomhnóirí conradh a shíniú:

ag glacadh le Polasaí Gaeilge

ag glacadh le Polasaí Iompair na Gaelscoile

ag cur in iúl go bhfuil siad ag glacadh leo

ag geallúint go míneoidh siad iad dá bpáistí agus

ag aithint na smachtbhannaí atá ann agus á nglacadh.

(c) Seo roinnt bealaí gur féidir le tuistí cabhrú agus tacú le hobair na scoile:

- Feabhas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge tré fhreastal ar ranganna.

- An Ghaeilge a labhairt i gconaí i dtimpeallacht na scoile, ag teacht chun na scoile agus ag bailiú na bpáistí ach go háirithe.

- Na páistí a spreagadh an Ghaeilge a labhairt eatarthu féin, sa bhaile, sa charr, ar an nguthán lena chéile, ag cóisir agus imeachtaí iar-scoile.

- Labhairt go minic leis na páistí faoi na cúiseanna gur roghnaíodh scoil lán-Ghaeilge dóibh agus na buntáistí atá léi.

- Tacaíocht a thabhairt do riail na Gaeilge sa scoil.

- An Ghaeilge a úsáid am ar bith gur féidir - Cuirí Breithlá, cártaí Breithlá, Nollag agus buíochais

- Feidhmeoidh Coiste na dTuistí tré mheán na Gaeilge chomh fada agus is féidir.

- Ba cheart don Ghaeilge a bheith ina teanga chumarsáide, ghnó agus shóisialta idir na thuismitheoirí chomh fada agus is féidir, i dtimpeallacht na scoile.

- Lorgófar moltaí ó na Tuistí nuair atá an polasaí Gaeilge á dhréachtadh agus á athbreithniú agus cuirfear cóip go dtí na tuistí nuair atá sé faomhaithe ag an mBord/bPátrún.

8. Bord Bainistíochta

- (a) Gabhfaidh forbairt agus fás na Gaeilge le ceann amháin de na postanna um Dualgaisí Speisialta. Beidh sé mar chúram ar an múinteoir seo i dteannta leis an Phríomhoide agus an mBord Bainistíochta agus i gcomhairle leis an bhfoireann uile plean a dhréachtadh agus a chur faoi bhráid an Bhoird. Déanfar athbhreithniú ar an bplean seo go rialta. Lorgófar moltaí ó Choiste na bpaistí agus ó Choiste na dTuistí maidir le seo.
- (b) Déanfar cumarsáid leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, An Roinn Sláinte, An Chomhairle Chontae agus srl tré Ghaeilge.
- (c) Feidhmeoidh an Bord Bainistíochta tré mheán na Gaeilge.
- (d) Eagróidh an Bord Bainistíochta agus Coiste na dTuistí imeachtaí iarscoile chun timpeallacht Ghaeilge a chruthú do pháistí agus do thuistí -ranganna, ceol, damhsa, ceird, Club na nÓg, cluichí agus srl.
- (e) Glacfaidh an scoil páirt i gcomórtais agus í bhféiltí Gaeilge agus Gaelacha.
- (f) Sa thuairisc a thugann an Príomhoide ag gach cruinniú Boird, beidh cúntas ar fáil faoi dhul chun cinn na Gaeilge mar chuid d'ábhar na tuairisce.
- (g) Ba mhór don Bhord freastal ar riachtanais na dtuistí trína chinntiú go bhfuil said
- rannpháirteach in oideachas a gcuid páistí
 - rannpháirteach i gcur chun cinn na scoile agus na Gaeilge:- mar shampla ranganna Gaeilge ag leibhéal éagsúla, caint faoi labhairt na Gaeilge sa bhaile agus conas í a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn ann agus iad a mhealladh isteach ar thaobh na Gaeilge.
- (h) Aon Mhúinteoir nach bhfuil cruinneas sásúil Gaeilge aige/aici a chur ar chúrsa le feabhas a chur ar labhairt agus scríobh na Gaeilge (Cruinneas).
- (i) Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an bPolasaí Gaeilge go rialto
- (j) Ba cheart don Bhord, don Phríomhoide, don fhoireann scoile agus do na tuistí a ról a ghlacadh ag cinntiú go gcloítear leis an bPolasaí Gaeilge

Polasaí ar Riail na Gaeilge

An Riail

Do pháistí ó Rang 1 ar aghaidh tá Riail na Gaeilge ann- 'sé sin go bhfuil ar na páistí Gaeilge a úsáid ar scoil

Cén uair atá riail na Gaeilge i bhfeidhm

1. Do thréimhse an lá scoile (seachas i rith ceachtanna Béarla)
2. Ar thalamh na scoile i rith an lá scoile ar fad.
3. I rith ranganna iarscoile
4. Ag teacht nó ag fágáil na scoile do pháistí Rang 1-6 atá ag caint le páistí foireann/ scoile eile
5. Ar thurais scoile nó ócáidí spóirt nó ócáidí eile eagraithe ag múinteoirí na scoile

Faoi Rial na Gaeilge

Táimid an-bhródúil as Riail na Gaeilge sa scoil.

Aontaíonn muid gur Riail é labhairt na Gaeilge agus gurb é an Riail is tábhachtaí sa scoil é.

An Prioracht anseo ná an Ghaeilge a spreagadh i mbealaí dearfacha an tam ar fad agus na páistí a mholadh nuair a dhéanann siad iarracht shásúil í a úsáid. Is í an taitneamh leis an teanga an rud is larnaí agus is tábhachtaí.

Is gné den Chód Iompair é Riail na Gaeilge.

Béifear ag súil le lán tacaíocht agus comhoibriú ó thuistí na scoile, ón mBord, ón gCoiste na dTuistí chun meon dearfach i leith úsáid na Gaeilge a chothú.

Béifear ag súil freisin go labhróidh na tuismitheoirí cibé Gaeilge* atá acu leis na páistí taobh amuigh agus go mór-mhór taobh istigh de bhallaí na scoile agus ag ócáidí scoile agus go ndéanfaidh siad na páistí a spreagadh Gaeilge a úsáid ag ócáidí scoile.

Béifear ag súil go mbeidh gach páiste i gcónaí ag úsáid leagan Gaeilge amháin dena nainmneacha (faoi mar a bhíonn sé leagtha amach ag am chlárúcháin)

Labhairt na Gaeilge:

Páistí:

Foghlaimítear an teanga trí cheol, spraoi, gheaitsíocht, dhrámaíocht agus rannta. Mealltar na páistí chuig Gaeilge a labhairt agus a bheith bródúil as an dteanga. Moltar sár-iarracht, trí aitheantas a thabairt dóibh i bhfoirm comórtaisí aonair, ranga agus comórtaisí/ócáidí scoile mar shampla:

- ✓ Corn Gaeilgeoir an Lae sna ranganna naíonán
- ✓ Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine
- ✓ Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa
- ✓ Duaiseanna aonair ón mála duaiseanna
- ✓ Duaiseanna aonair ón mbosca duaiseanna
- ✓ Duaiseanna ranga agus scoile d'úsáid na Gaeilge sa chlós
- ✓ Crannchur Scoile i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge
- ✓ Tionóil na Gaeilge ar an Aoine deireanach den mhí ag a mbronnfar “Gaeilgeoir na míosa” agus Duais na míosa do pháistí a fhaigheann mí iomlán de stampaí glasa ná oíche shaor ón obairbhaile agus duais am teilifíse/ órga don rang má fhaigheann gach duine sa rang stampa glas gach lá den mhí.
- ✓ Tabharfaimid cuireadh do iardhaltaí agus daltaí sinsireacha teacht agus labhairt le páistí eile sa scoil mar gheall ar an taithí a bhí acu le Gaeilge a fhoghlaim ar scoil.

Beidh ról lárnach ag coiste na bpáistí na seifteanna is fearr don Ghaeilge a spreagadh tríd na scoile a phiocadh agus a rith. i.e. rang is fearr- duais = turas na Gaeilge, sprioc stampaí glasa don téarma do gach rang, duaiseanna rialta sa chlós, ticéid sa chlós gur fiú stampaí breise iad, plean bliana do Ghaeilge sa chlós) agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do aon pháiste atá ag briseadh Riail na Gaeilge.

Déanfar páistí Rang 5/6 a mhealladh le bheith mar ambasadóirí don Ghaeilge sa scoil tré imeachtaí taitneamhacha a rith sa scoil tríd na scoilbliana. (crannchur, Drámaí ag an tionóil, Gaeilge 24 srl).

Cuirtear béim ar Ghaeilge cruinn, líofa a labhairt ó thaobh gramadaí de, go mór mhór ó Rang a 1 ar aghaidh.

Aithnítear na fadhbanna seo a leanas agus ní bheidh siad ceadaithe as seo amach:

- Páistí taobh amuigh den scoil ag labhairt le múinteoirí na scoile as Béarla- Beifear ag súil go mbeannaítear múinteoirí i gcónaí tré Ghaeilge agus nuair is féidir go mbíonn comhráití idir mhúinteoirí agus daltaí taobh amuigh den scoil tré Ghaeilge.

- Stampa oráiste Páistí ag cur focal amháin Béarla isteach in abairtí Gaeilge (gan iarracht sásúil teacht ar an bhfocal nó é a mhíniú as Gaeilge)- sa chás seo cuirfear stampa oráiste i ndialann an pháiste ag meabhrú dóibh stopadh agus smaoineamh a dhéanamh ar an leagan Gaeilge den fhocal. Is ionann 3 stampa oráiste agus stampa dearg.
- Páistí nuair nach féidir leo smaoineamh ar an bhfocal as Gaeilge ag rá, “tosaíonn sé le X (litir) as Béarla”- (déanadh é seo sna seomraí ranga rud a chuireann gach duine ag smaoineamh as Béarla)

Cruinneas Teanga: Seo bileog a thugtar do na múinteoirí, do na bótúin is coitianta i measc na bpáistí. Bíonn ceann nua uair sa mhí. Díríonn na múinteoirí ar na bótúin seo don mhí iomláin.

Spreagtar na páistí chun an teanga a úsáid i dtimpeallachtaí eile seachas timpeallacht na scoile agus gníomhaíochta scoile.

- ✓ Eatharthu féin sa bhaile.
- ✓ Le gaolta a bhfuil Gaeilge acu
- ✓ Úsáid a bhaint as na meán-cumarsáide Gaelach m.sh T.G 4/ Raidió na Life.
- ✓ Leabhair Gaeilge a léamh.

Stampaí Glasa agus Dearga

Usáidfear córas stampa do pháistí ó Rang 1 go Rang 6 chun taifead a choinneáil ar dhílseacht do Riail na Gaeilge.

Do pháistí a labhraíonn Gaeilge don lá scoile ar fad - gheobhaidh siad stampa glas ag deireadh gach lá sa dialann obairbhaile. Feidhmeoidh sé seo mar atreisiú dearfach leanúnach dona páistí.

Má bhíonn páiste ag labhairt Béarla, gan iarracht sásúil a dhéanamh Gaeilge a labhairt, labhróidh an múinteoir leis/ leí, agus gheobhaidh siad stampa dearg sa dialann obair bhaile (Tá an dialann le síniú gach oíche ag tuistí) agus leanfar na céimeanna grádaithe de smachtbhannaí thíos i dteannta lena stampaí dearga.

Céim Step	Rang 1-6
1	Má bhrítear an Riail don chéad uair déantar ainm an pháiste a chhlárú sa Leabhar Béarla agus síníonn an páiste duillín a mhíniú gur bhris an páiste an Riail don chéad uair agus síníonn tuismitheoirí an duillín chomh maith. Labhraíonn an múinteoir ranga leis an bpáiste faoin riail.
2	Má bhrítear an Riail don dara huair déantar ainm an pháiste a chhlárú sa Leabhar Béarla agus síníonn an páiste duillín a mhíniú gur bhris an páiste an Riail don dara huair agus síníonn tuismitheoirí an duillín chomh maith. Labhraíonn an Príomhoide leis an bpáiste faoin riail.
3	<p>Má bhrítear an Riail don tríú huair déantar ainm an pháiste a chhlárú sa Leabhar Béarla agus síníonn an páiste duillín a mhíniú gur bhris an páiste an Riail don tríú huair agus síníonn tuismitheoirí an duillín chomh maith. Labhraíonn an Príomhoide le tuismitheoirí an pháiste faoin riail agus lorgaíonn sé/sí tacaíocht uathu a bpáiste a chur ag cloí leis an Riail.</p> <p>Ag an bpointe seo tosaíonn tréimhse tacaíochta sa scoil don pháiste sin - ó Choiste na bpáistí agus ó fhoireann na scoile- ag iarraidh an páiste a threorú i dtreo an Riail a choinneáil agus ag iarraidh orthu cuidiú leis an nGaeilge sa scoil. Leanfar leis an tacaíocht seo ar feadh tréimhse 3 mhí.</p> <p>Sa chás nach gcloíonn an páiste leis an Riail i ndiaidh céim 3, bainfear pribhléidí/ cineálacha scoile den pháiste- .i. Am órga, siúlóidí, cuairteoirí speisialta/ taispeántais sa scoil, turais spóirt agus turais eile, turas deireadh na bliana.</p> <p>Sa chás go leanann páiste ag briseadh Riail na Gaeilge ó Rang 5/6 tar éis na gcéimeanna thuas bheadh de chumas ag an scoil an páiste a chur ar fionraí ón scoil, de réir nósanna imeachta Fionraíochta atá leagtha síos sa pholasáí iompair.</p> <p>Tabharfar seans don pháiste a fhaigheann tréimhse míosa de stampaí glasa. Sa chás seo cuirfear an páiste siar céim amháin do gach mí a mbíonn lán mhí de stampaí glasa acu.</p>

Braitheann bronnadh an stampa (dearg nó glas) ar theanga a chloiseann an múinteoir óna páistí (seachas páistí ag déanamh tuairisc ar pháiste eile .i. Bhí XX ag labhairt Béarla- ach sa chás go nadmhaíonn páiste go raibh siad ag úsáid Béarla go bhfaigheadh siad an stampa dearg)

Déanfar na stampaí a chomhaireamh agus a thairfeadh thar bliain scoile agus ag tús gach bliain scoile bíonn páiste ag tosú ar ais ag 0.

Aithníonn na múinteoirí go bhfuil páistí ann a dhéanann an-iarracht teacht ar an bhfocal Gaeilge nuair nach bhfuil sé acu agus níl se i gceist riamh stampa dearga a thabhairt sa chás seo, ach tá cásanna eile a dheir páistí nach raibh an Ghaeilge acu ach go gceaptar nach ndearna siad an iarracht sásúil teacht ar an bhfocal nó an focal a mhíniú i slí eile. I gcásanna mar seo beidh ar mhúinteoirí discrédid proifisiúnta a úsáid.

Measann an fhoireann go bhféadfaí foclóir ranga a thosú i ngach seomra ranga chun cuidiú le focail/frásaí nach bhfuil ag na páistí a aistriú go Gaeilge.

Tuismitheoirí:

Táthar ag súil go ndéanfaidh na tuismitheoirí/caomhnóirí iarracht Gaeilge a spreagadh agus a úsáid timpeall na scoile agus sa bhaile.

Tugtar seans do na tuismitheoirí aon Ghaeilge atá acu a úsáid agus moltar dóibh an Ghaeilge a tharraingt isteach i saoil baile a cuid bpáistí nuair a fhaigheann siad deis.

Chun cabhrú le tuismitheoirí:

- ✓ Cuirfear ranganna Gaeilge ar fáil, nuair is féidir.
- ✓ Seolfar “cúpla focail/frásaí/seanfocail” abhaile.

Athbhreiniú:

Déanfar athbhreiniú ar an bpolasaí seo de réir sceideal athbhreinithe an bhoird.

[Leagan Béarla] [English version]

Introduction:

The staff put drafted this policy in consultation with the children of the school, the parents of the school and presented it to the Board over a period covering during 2017/18 and into 2018/19. We have had a policy in place since 2006 and it was in need of review to maintain the strong standard of Irish in the school. In this policy there is input from our Mission statement, the Education Act 1998 and from the Patron body, an Foras Pátrúnachta na Scoileanna Lán-Ghaeilge.

...from our Mission Statement

Gaelscoil na Lochanna is the first Gaelscoil founded in the area of the lakes, Co. Wicklow. We want to do our best to cultivate the Irish language, not only in the school itself, but also to make it a living language in the whole area.

We want to provide an excellent level of Education through the medium of Irish Language.

We want to establish and permeate the Irish culture into the life of the school.

The Education Act 1998 sec. 15

-It shall be the duty of a board to manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and their parents and to provide or to cause to be provided an appropriate education for each student at the school for which the board has responsibility.

-A board shall perform the functions conferred on it and on a school by this Act and in carrying out its functions the board shall –

-Do so in accordance with the policies determined by the minister from time to time

-Uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school and at all times sat in accordance with any acts of the Oireachtas or instrument made there under, deed, charter, articles of management or other such instrument relating to the establishment or operation of the school.

-Consult with and keep the patron informed of decisions and proposals of the board.

Irish Language Medium School

Gaelscoil na Lochanna is an Irish medium language school where Irish is –

- The Language 1 of the school
- The business and communicative language of the school
- The teaching and learning language in every subject except English
- The language of the teachers
- The language of the pupils
- The language of all aspects of school life

Irish will be spoken always in the school playground, school bus, on school trips and during after school activities.

Immersion Education

Immersion education is the system of education of Gaelscoil na Lochanna. This means that pupils are immersed in Irish from their first day in school. The teacher will speak Irish only to the pupils from the beginning. Years in the infant classes are therefore very important. The immersion period lasts from entry to the end of term 1 (Christmas) in Senior Infants. (beginning in 2019) Children will be required to speak only as Gaeilge from the end of Seachtain na Gaeilge in Senior Infant class (from 2020 after immersion period has been extended).

Pupils must achieve a satisfactory standard as soon as possible. With this policy the pupils will grasp the language easily and naturally.

Teaching

1. All subjects (with the exception of English) are taught through the Irish language, in an enthusiastic and enjoyable atmosphere.
2. Pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-maths skills will be taught through Irish only. As laid down in the curriculum, reading in the language 1 will be taught first to the pupils. Every subject on the curriculum except English will be taught through the medium of Irish.
3. Every meaning, explanation and definition of words, terms etc. will be given through the medium of Irish in every subject except for English
4. It is understood that when pupils are being prepared for the Sacraments it is done through Irish and that the ceremony will be carried out through Irish on the day.
5. The Special Education Teachers will do their work through Irish except where English is the subject being taught.

Communication

It is the policy of the Gaelscoil that Irish is the language of communication among pupils in the playground. The vocabulary of the playground will be taught to the pupils. It is by good example and good practice that pupils will accept the Irish language policy. Teachers and school staff should be heard using Irish among themselves at all times, in the classroom, in the yard, to the pupils and to visitors to the school.

School Administration

- ❖ The school secretary will be fluent in Irish and speak it to the teachers, pupils and parents where possible. It is expected that classroom assistants will have Irish and that they will speak it to the pupils, teachers, parents and to each other. In circumstances where they are not fluent they should never speak English in front of children. Every employee is a member of staff and they have a duty to use Irish always and in no way undermine the characteristic spirit of the school.
- ❖ The use of Irish as a spoken language is a central part of the Code of Behaviour. Encouragement and enticement is the most desirable way of promoting Irish in the school, using the following strategies of encouragement, praise, prizes, enticements, rewards. In situations where these means are not successful the steps as outlined in the Irish Rule policy (see below) will be followed.
- ❖ A vocabulary of common terms used in school notes and notices to parents will be made available to them. Notes and notices will be available in Irish or bilingually.
- ❖ The Board of Management shall inform visitors on official business to the school that it wishes them to use Irish in so far as possible.

Parents / Guardians.

-It is essential that parents have a committed interest in Irish. Parents shall be informed before registration of the children of the Irish ethos and respect for it will be explained to them and their outlook and that of the Board of Management concerning Irish will be shared. It is expected that they will have a sincere commitment to the language.

- Before a child is registered as a pupil in the Gaelscoil parents / guardians will sign a contract
- Accepting the Irish Language policy

- Accepting the Code of Behaviour
- Promising to explain the policies to their children
- Recognising and accepting the sanctions that will be imposed as outlined
- Parents can help and support the work of the school as follows –
 - ❖ Improve their Irish by attending classes,
 - ❖ Speak Irish always in the school environs especially when leaving and collecting children,
 - ❖ Encourage children to speak Irish to each other at home, in the car, on the phone, at parties, and during extra-curricular activities.
 - ❖ Speak to the children why they attend an all-Irish speaking school and about its advantages.
 - ❖ Support the regulations concerning the speaking of Irish in the school
 - ❖ Use Irish whenever possible - birthday invitations, birthday cards, Christmas and thank you cards etc.
 - ❖ The Parents Committee should operate through the medium of Irish in so far as possible.
 - ❖ Irish should be the language of communication, business, and socially among parents in so far as possible in the school environs.
 - ❖ Parents views should be sought when the Language policy is being drafted and revised and parents should be provided with a copy after it is sanctioned by the Patron / Board.

Board of Management

- ❖ One of the Special Duty Posts in the school shall include responsibility for the development of Irish in the school. It will be the duty of this teacher in consultation with the principal and the Board to draft a plan for sanction by the Board which should be reviewed regularly. Suggestions from the childrens'/parents' committee should be considered also.
- ❖ Communication with the Department of Education and Science, Department of Health and the County Council shall be through Irish.
- ❖ The Board of Management shall operate through Irish.
- ❖ The Board of Management and the Parents Committee shall organise activities to create an Irish environment for pupils, parents - eg. Classes, music, dancing, crafts, youth club, games etc.,
- ❖ The school shall take part in Irish competitions and festivals.
- ❖ As part of the principal's report at Board of management meetings the principal will report on the progress in Irish in the school.
- ❖ The Board of Management will respond to parents needs by ensuring that they participate in their children's education and participate in the promotion of the school and the Irish Language e.g. encourage Irish Classes, talks regarding the use of Irish at home, encouraging and promoting and working for the Language.
- ❖ Encourage teachers to develop their standard of Irish by attending courses,
- ❖ Review the Irish Language policy.
- ❖ The Board of Management, the principal, the staff should play their part in ensuring that the Irish Language policy of the school is followed.

Polasaí ar Riail na Gaeilge

The Rule

For children in Rang 1 upwards the Irish rule applies- that is that the children must always speak Irish at school

When does the Irish rule apply?

1. For the duration of the school day (except for during English lessons)
2. On the school grounds for the whole school day
3. During after school classes
4. Leaving or arriving on the school grounds for children Rang 1-6 speaking to other school children or school staff.
5. On school tours, or sports events or at other teacher organised events

About the Irish Rule

We are very proud of the Irish Rule in the school

We agree that it is the most important rule of the school.

The priority will always be to positively motivate the children to speak Irish in the school and to praise the children for speaking it. Fun and enjoying the language is the central and most important thing.

The Irish Rule is part of the school's Code of Behaviour.

Support and cooperation will be sought from parents, the Board, Parent's committee to ensure that a positive attitude exists surrounding the use of the Irish language in the school setting.

It is also expected of the parents that they would speak to the children through Irish as much as possible both within and in the surrounding area of the school and at school events and that they will encourage the children to speak Irish at school events.

All children in the school will be expected to always use the Irish version of their name (as entered at enrolment).

The speaking of Irish:

Children:

The language is learned through music, play, actions, drama and poetry. The children are encouraged to speak Irish and to be proud of their language. Their efforts are encouraged through individual/ class and school competitions and events such as

- A Trophy for Irish speaker of the day in Infant Classes
- Irish speakers of the week
- Irish speakers of the month
- Individual awards from the mála for speaking Irish in class
- Individual prizes from the box (bigger prizes) for speaking Irish.
- Class/School prizes for speaking Irish in the yard
- School raffle during Seachtain na Gaeilge
- We will hold a special assembly on the last Friday of every month to award Speaker of the month trophies and prizes for children who kept the Irish rule every day of the month- (the prize here would be a night off homework). A whole class who achieved green stamps every day for the month would receive a class prize of tv time/ golden time.

- We will invite past pupils and senior pupils to speak to children from time to time on their experience of learning Gaeilge.

The children's committee will have a central role here in coming up with ideas and events to promote the use of Irish in the school. (i.e. the best class gets a school tour, a termly target of green stamps for each class to hit, regular prizes in the yard, tickets in the yard that are worth extra stamps, a year plan for promoting Irish in the yard and supporting children who break the Irish speaking rule.

Children in Rang 5/6 will be encouraged also to be Ambassadors for Gaeilge in the school also and will be encouraged to run fun events based around the speaking Irish throughout the school year. (eg. raffles, performing dramas at correcting grammar points for the school, running Gaeilge 24 event etc).

An emphasis is placed on precise, fluent Irish speaking, from a grammar perspective, especially from first class onwards.

The following have been recognised and will not be allowed from now on

- Children outside school speaking English to teachers. At very least children and teachers should greet each other as Gaeilge and when possible continue on to have conversations as Gaeilge.
- Orange stamp: Children inserting English word into Irish sentences (without a satisfactory effort to get the Irish word or to explain it otherwise in Irish). In this instance child will be given an orange stamp in their homework journal to remind them to stop and think of the Irish word. 3 orange stamps equal a red stamp.
- Children who can't think of the Irish word saying "it begins with X (letter) in English- this happened in past and just switches whole class to thinking in English.

Accuracy of language: A sheet is given to the class teachers each month containing the most common mistakes the children are making in Irish. The teachers focus on these mistakes throughout the month.

The children are encouraged to use the Irish language in environments other than at school and at school events / activities.

- Between themselves at home.
- With relatives that have an understanding of the language.
- To make use of Irish mediums of communication such as TG 4 / Raidió na Life.
- To read Irish books.

Stamps- Green and Red

A system of stamps (Green and Red) will be used for children from Rang 1 - Rang 6 to record the children's adherence to the Irish rule.

Children who keep the Irish rule each day will receive a green stamp in their homework journal. This will act as a constant positive reinforcement for the children. To those who do not make a satisfactory effort to speak Irish in the school the child will receive a red stamp in their homework journal (Which is to be signed every night) and the following graded scale of sanctioning will also apply from the start of one school year to the end of the same school year.

Céim Step	Rang 1-6
1	If the rule is broken for the first time, the child's name is recorded in the Leabhar Béarla / English Book, the child signs a slip indicating that they have broken the rule for the first time and parents/guardians sign the slip also. The child's teacher speaks to the child regarding this rule.
2	If the rule is broken for the second time, the child's name is again recorded in the Leabhar Béarla / English Book, the child signs a slip indicating that they have broken the rule for the second time and parents/guardians sign the slip also. The Principal speaks to the child regarding this rule

3	<p>If the rule is broken for the third time, the child's name is again recorded in the Leabhar Béarla / English Book, the child signs a slip indicating that they have broken the rule for the third time and parents/guardians sign the slip also. The principal speaks to the child's parents/guardians regarding this rule and requests that they support their child regarding keeping it.</p> <p>At this point, the school will start a period of support for the child- organised by Children's committee and staff of the school- trying to direct the child to keep the school rule and seeking ways they can contribute to helping spread Gaeilge in the school. This period of support will last for 3 months.</p> <p>In the case of a child breaking the rule after step 3, school treat items/ privileges will be removed i.e. Golden time,, school walks, visitor sessions/shows in school, sport trips, end of year tour.</p> <p>If a child from Rang 5 or 6 continues to break the Irish speaking rule following the above steps the school will reserve a right to suspend the child from the school, in accordance with suspension procedures in code of conduct. Child will still be afforded a chance to drop down a step by achieving 1 month of green stamps. In this instance for every one month of green stamps they will drop down one level.</p>
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The awarding of the stamp (green or red) is based on language that the teachers hear not on reports by other children) i.e. "XX was speaking English" - but in the event that a child admits to speaking English they will get the red stamp.

The stamps are recorded and counted over a school year and after each year the children restart at 0.

The teachers recognise that there are children who make every effort to think of the Irish word when they don't have it straight off and it is never intended to give a red stamp in this incidence, but there are other cases where children may claim that they did not know the Irish word and it is thought that they did not give satisfactory effort to get the word or to explain the word using other Irish words. In incidents like teachers will use their professional discretion.

The staff believe that it would help to have a class made Irish dictionary in each classroom to help with translating words/phrases children don't have as Gaeilge.

Parents:

It is expected that parents/guardians will make an effort to promote and use Irish around the school and at home. Parents are given the opportunity to use any Irish they may have and are encouraged to draw the Irish language into the home and the lives of their children.

To aid the parents:

- Adult Irish classes are made available, when possible.
- Words / Phrases / Proverbs in Irish will be sent home with the school children.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed according to review schedule of Board of Management.