

Code of Behaviour [2021]

The Pupils' Council (*Comhairle na nDaltaí*) had an input into this Code and it will be in the School Diary.

Principles – “Be nice, show respect.”

The basic principle that all of us will follow is: *to always show respect for everyone*. The same respect must be shown in regard to every person and to always be fair to them. *“Be kind to everyone.”*

We understand that everyone is different from each other and we will be understanding of those differences in the Gaelscoil. We celebrate that we are different from one another.

We agree that if the entire Gaelscoil community works together (pupils, parents, teachers, assistants, etc), that each of us will be able to behave in a way that is positive for everyone, that is beneficial, caring, orderly and respectful.

We understand that the entire school staff are there to give support to the pupils, to the parents and guardians and to every member of staff in the Gaelscoil and that there is a duty on all of us to do our best to cooperate together.

We will use the Restorative Practice when necessary to address any harm that has been done and to put things right again.

“Ní neart go cur le chéile i nGaelscoil Chill Dara.”
[“To succeed in Gaelscoil Chill Dara, we must be united.”]

Aims

To show respect, all of us in Gaelscoil Chill Dara want that our school will be a place:

- that is welcoming to everyone (pupils, members of staff, parents and others),
- where people show respect for each other always,
- where every person can feel safe always,
- where we see the good in people and the various qualities that they have,
- where everyone makes an effort to be positive,
- where people listen to us and that fairness will be afforded to all,
- where we can live together and with an opportunity to build a positive, active relationship with other people,
- where everyone is able to learn and make progress, both young and old,
- where we can learn from our mistakes and that we have an opportunity to repair any harm that has been done and to put things right again,
- where people speak Gaeilge as well as they are able to with pride.

Gaeilge on the tip of our tongues.
We will be pleasant and kind with everyone.
We will try our best always.
We will be sensible and stay safe as far as possible.

With Confidence, without Fear, we go Forward Happy = RESPECT

Guidelines for the Classroom, Yard and School

At the start of the school year, there is often a discussion between teachers and their pupils to draw up classroom guidelines. There are particular guidelines for the yard for lining up, playing games, staying safe, etc. As well as that, there are school guidelines that are to be followed by everyone on the premises of the Gaelscoil itself and also when a group go on a trip or to some event.

1. In the Classroom:

- We will show respect for the right of the other pupils to learn.
- We will do our best to cooperate with the teacher and to help her/him.
- We will follow the instructions of the teacher always.
- We will do our best regarding work at school each day.
- We will do our homework as best we are able.

2. Be nice, show respect for Gaeilge.

We are very proud that our school is a Gaelscoil and we promise that we ourselves will use the Gaeilge that we have whenever we can in the Gaelscoil and on a trip or at an event together.

3. Be nice, show respect always for everyone and for their belongings.

We will be mannerly, use appropriate language and be considerate of the personal space of each other. We will show respect for the personal belongings of each other.

4. Be nice, show respect for the other classes that are at school with us.

We will walk quietly around the school on the left. We will be well-mannered and we will not be messing in the bathroom.

5. Be nice, show respect for everything belonging to the Gaelscoil.

We will keep the surroundings of all of the Gaelscoil clean, tidy and free of litter. We will be careful with the property of the Gaelscoil.

6. Be nice, show respect for the Restorative Practice.

We will make use of the Restorative Questions:

- i. What happened?
- ii. What did you think when you saw that happening?
- iii. How did this incident affect you and other people?
- iv. What was the most difficult thing for you?
- v. What do we need to do now to put things right?

“Be a giraffe – long neck, big heart, watchful.”

7. We will follow each direction from every teacher, in the class or outside in the yard, or otherwise. *In particular*, if a teacher gives us *an individual direct instruction* – [for example: “stand back” .. “stop” (some behaviour) .. “don’t do that” .. “leave him/her alone” .. “put it down” (some thing) .. stand out of the line .. sit down .. come here .. go to the Principal, etc.] – we will follow that instruction immediately in a mannerly,

courteous way. We understand too, that teachers sometimes give us a direct instruction to keep ourselves or someone else safe from danger.

8. We will stay on the grounds of the Gaelscoil and within specified places under the care of a member of the staff during school time, except with the permission of a teacher.

9. We will leave a mobile phone, iPad and any other similar device, at home. We will not bring them with us on a school trip either, overnight or otherwise. If we do bring them to school, we understand that the Gaelscoil must take them from us for two weeks. We will leave our toys at home also.

Bullying and other Unacceptable Behaviour

Bullying behaviour or any other unacceptable behaviour is not accepted in our school. It is the responsibility of all of us to *tell some adult* without delay if we see anything like this. All of us will do our best to ensure that Gaelscoil Chill Dara will be free of bullying as much as we are able.

Gaelscoil Chill Dara has an *Anti-Bullying Policy* to help all of us.

If a pupil thinks that he/she himself/herself is being bullied, he/she should:

- *Say "Stop"* to that person(s).
- *Go* to another pupil(s) or to a member of the staff.
- *Tell* an adult.

We use various programmes to help us all to create a positive and kind atmosphere in the Gaelscoil.

Reinforcing Positive Behaviour

In the classroom, the teacher has the classroom guidelines and other means to reinforce positive behaviour. Teachers will praise the pupils through options such as the following:

- A quiet word or gesture to show praise,
- Write a note in the pupil's copybook, in the School Diary, on Aladdin or Class Dojo, to let the parents know how good the pupil is,
- A visit to another teacher or the Principal to receive praise,
- A word of praise in front of a group or class,
- A Sticker, Merit Ticket or Homework Pass,
- A Card for Gaeilge or a Card for Kindness,
- Giving a special privilege to the pupil,
- A day without school uniform, Pyjama Day or Pets Day for the class,
- A Film, Pizza, BBQ or a Trip for the class,
- Nominating a pupil or class for a prize from the Principal or for Irish Speaker of the Week (Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine).

All around the entire school, also, the staff of the Gaelscoil can praise and show approval to pupils with options such as those above.

"Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí."

[“Praise the Youth and they will thrive.”]

When a Pupil Does not Follow this Code

We understand that each pupil and each case is different. The school can act with options such as the following:

- Talk with the pupil about the guidelines that are in this Code and explain to him/her the importance of them for the benefit of the entire Gaelscoil community,
- Use the Restorative Questions to discuss with him/her about the behaviour and to attempt to put things right again,
- Finish in the school or at home any work that has not been completed because of the misbehaviour,
- Give extra work to the pupil,
- Take “Time Out” to reflect on the misbehaviour – in the class itself or with a member of the staff in another classroom, or in the yard (depending on where the problem is and to ensure that everyone is safe),
- Lose a class privilege (Golden Time included),
- Talk with the parents about the pupil’s behaviour,
- Inform the Principal or Deputy Principal,
- Draw up an Individual Behaviour Plan for the pupil in partnership with the parents, and, maybe, make additional support available to him/her (taking any particular needs into account) and to the school team,
- Suspend the pupil from the Gaelscoil for several days.

Sometimes, when an incident (of misbehaviour) occurs the Principal will inquire into it and we understand that we might be asked to write down an account of what we saw and heard to help with that inquiry and for the benefit of all of us. Also, the Principal might ask the pupil who was the cause of the incident (who is mentioned in connection with the misbehaviour) to write down an account of what happened.
