



# Fáilte go Naíscoil agus Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche





Bunscail Bheanna Boirche was established in 1999, with our Naíscail becoming statutory in 2018.

**Our aims:**

- That we educate our children to achieve their full potential through the medium of Irish;
- That we value and seek a high level of parental involvement in their children's education;
- That children are bilingual when they leave Naíscail agus Bunscail Bheanna Boirche at the end of Rang 7.

**Stair na  
Scoile  
Background**



# Curaclam réamhscoile *Preschool Curriculum*



At Naíscoil level the whole curriculum is delivered through play-based learning. As an Irish medium nursery, this is delivered through the Irish language. Children learn to problem solve, take turns, share, explain their methods and extend their vocabulary and communication skills through language rich, adult supervised/led play experiences.

They will cover real-life topics such as 'Animals', 'The Body' and 'Clothes', 'People', 'The House', 'Travel', etc. as well as covering seasons, festivals, celebrations, etc..

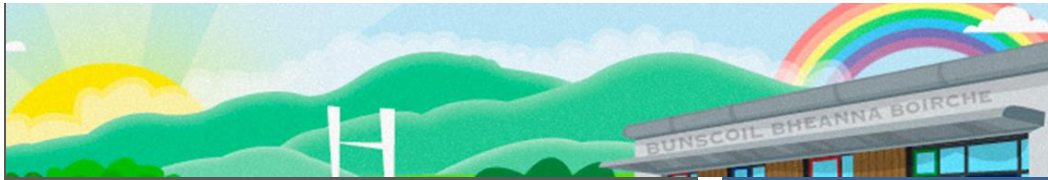
# Gnáthlá ar an Naíscoil



The Naíscoil day begins at 9am and finishes at 12pm Monday to Friday. Children must be left to and collected from the naíscoil by an adult. There are two full time staff members in our Naíscoil; Múinteoir Gráinne and Cúntóir Louise. During the Naíscoil session, children play both indoors and outdoors and snack is provided daily, currently at a cost of £3 per week.

[Lá ar Naíscoil](#)





# Curriculum

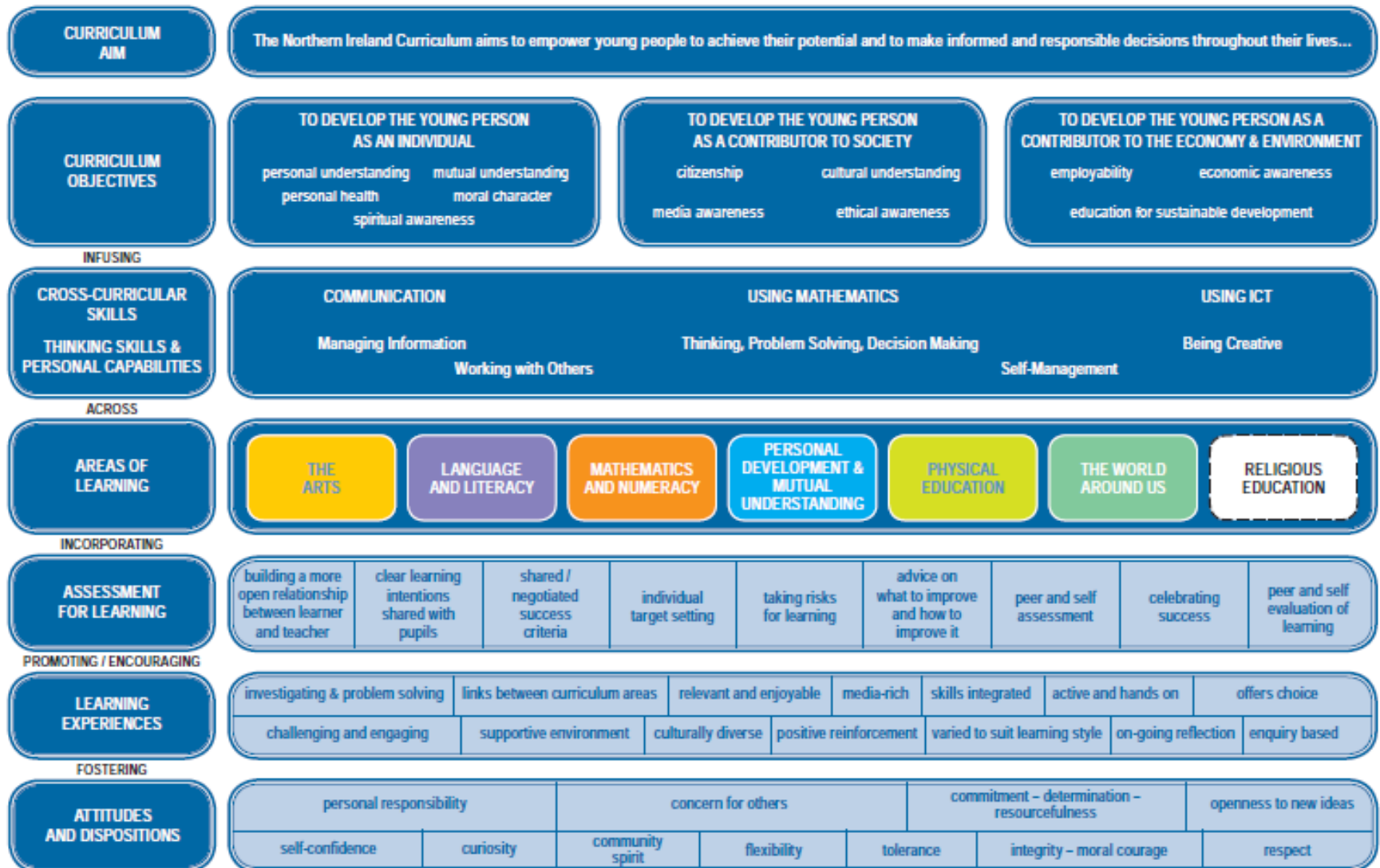
There are three stages in Primary School:

- Foundation Stage (Rang 1 and 2)
- Key Stage 1 (Rang 3 and 4)
- Key Stage 2 (Rang 5, 6 and 7)

We follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum, exactly the same as any other primary school in NI!

We cover: Literacy (Irish and English), Numeracy, The World Around Us, The Arts (Art & Design, Music and Drama), P.E., Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), Religious Education, ICT.

## The "Big Picture" of the Curriculum at Key Stages 1 & 2





## **An important question parents often ask is ‘how will my child be assessed?’**

- Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche assesses pupils in the same ways as pupils are assessed in any other primary school in Northern Ireland – Irish or English medium.
- In line with the NI Curriculum, in Years 1 – 7, teachers must assess your child’s learning.
- In Rang 1 & 2, this predominantly takes the form of ongoing individual classroom observations. In Rang 1 & 2, rather than sitting end of year tests, pupils are assessed on a 6 – weekly basis on their key literacy and numeracy skills/targets, albeit in a very informal style, such as structured games and 1:1 activities.
- In Rang 3 - 7, pupils undergo standardised tests in the summer term in English, Irish and Maths, which give a more formal indication of progress. These scores are then analysed by the teachers and subject co-ordinators, and used to plan the future teaching and learning of our pupils.
- Every year, 1:1 parent-teacher meetings are held to update you on your child’s progress and to suggest areas to help support your child in the home environment.
- At the end of each school year, you will receive a written report from your child’s teacher. This will describe your child’s progress in every aspect of the curriculum.



# An Lá Scoile sa Bhunscoil

## *The Bunscoil School Day*

- Class begins at 9am. Children are supervised in the clós (playground) from 8.45am, and parents can avail of our 'Club Bricfeasta' which is available each morning from 8 – 8.45am.
- Breaktime is from 10.30-11.00am.
- Lunchtime is from 12.00-1.00pm.
  
- We pride ourselves on our healthy eating policy. Our school dinners come from St. Malachy's Primary School in Castlewella, and a menu is put on our school website every term. It is recommended that pupils eat fruit, a yoghurt or a small sandwich at breaktime. We encourage our pupils to keep well hydrated throughout the day with water. We discourage sugary/fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolates and sweets. We do not have any children with a nut allergy at present but we discourage bringing nuts to school.
  
- Rang 1 and Rang 2 go home at 2.00pm.
- Rang 4 – 7 go home at 3.00pm.
- Rang 3 go home at 2.00pm until Christmas, after which Rang 3 go home at 3.00pm.
- Our after-school club runs from 2 – 4pm daily.





Naíscoil agus Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche is an interdenominational school. We are open to all and welcoming to all. We have a very strong PDMU programme delivered throughout the school, comprised of two main schemes – **Living Learning Together** and **NSPCC Keeping Safe**.

Living Learning Together covers themes such as every child's uniqueness, emotions and feelings, sense of community, empathy and understanding, friendships and healthy relationships, and positive influences and role models. NSPCC's Keeping Safe programme reinforces the theme of healthy relationships. It also informs and educates our children on how to keep safe, with age-appropriate lessons on consent, neglect and abuse.

Although we are not a Catholic school, we do prepare pupils for the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. A lot of the work covered in our own tailored PDMU programme helps to prepare our children for these important sacraments with good messages on morals, values and relationships. We also of course cater for children and families who choose not to take part in the sacraments.





Pupils experience a wide range of sporting activities here. Structured weekly PE lessons are taught throughout the school, in which teachers follow a movement and athletics scheme which ensures continuity and progression of core skills and competences.

We often have coaches in for blocks working with different classes – Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, cross-country running and we've also had cricket and rugby coaches in the past.

Rang 7 pupils attend Down Leisure Centre for swimming lessons in the second term.



# Imeachtaí Seach-churaclaim

## *Extra-curricular activities*

- Club Bricfeasta - from 8.00am each morning
- After school club 2 – 3pm and 3 – 4pm
- School choir & musical groups
- Links with local high schools and other Gaelscoileanna
- Cumann na mBunscol competitions
- Flahavan's Cross-country Running League
- Féile Scoil drámaíochta
- Shared Education Partnership
- School Council and Eco-School Committee
- Cycling Proficiency



# Comhairle Scoile / Éiceachoiste

## *School Council & Eco-School committee*

We have both a School Council and Eco-School committee who have regular meetings to provide the pupils' voice on school matters. They have a say in the decision making process and are involved in lots of various events and initiatives that help to continually improve our school – fundraising events, playground rules, ordering resources, taking care of our garden, etc.



A banner with a colorful background of green hills, a yellow sun, and a rainbow. The text "Award winning Education" is written in large, bold, black letters. In the background, a school building is visible with the name "BUNSCOIL BHEANNA" on its facade.

# Award winning Education

- BBB awarded Digital School Status 2017
- Highly commended in C2K ICT Excellence Awards 2018 (iPads, computers and interactive whiteboards in use in each class by all pupils)
- Northern Ireland winners of C2K ICT Excellence Awards 2019
- Winners of regional Féile Scoil drámaíochta competitions
- UNICEF Rights Respecting school (Silver award)
- Awarded Green Flag Eco-School status in 2017, 2019 and again in 2022



- We strive to involve parents in the life of the school.
- We believe that happy children are more effective learners. Parents are always encouraged to discuss any concerns they may have either with the class teacher or with the principal. Our door is always open, and we pride ourselves here at Naíscóil & Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche on our open and friendly relationships between teachers and parents.

Having Irish in the home is not a prerequisite to attend Naíscóil agus Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche.





**Our uniform consists of:**

- Navy sweatshirt embroidered with the school logo and motto (available from John McKenny's Clothes Shop in Castlewellan);
- Grey trousers, skirt or shorts (joggers in Naíscoil);
- Green polo shirt embroidered with the school logo and motto;
- Navy school coat (optional);
- Black shoes - slip on/velcro ideally (trainers in Naíscoil);
- Navy or green gingham dresses in the summer time;

**P.E. uniform (Rang 1 upwards) consists of:**

- Grey/ navy track bottoms, or grey/navy shorts;
- Suitable trainers
- Green polo shirt embroidered with the school logo and motto
- We have a school jersey which is **OPTIONAL**, which can be ordered from the O'Neills website
- Younger pupils are strongly recommended to wear **velcro trainers** for PE to enable them to change as independently as possible





Homeworks are supplemented with support materials for parents to use to help with pronunciation and meaning.

There are some fantastic websites to assist parents with Irish and to support their child, such as:

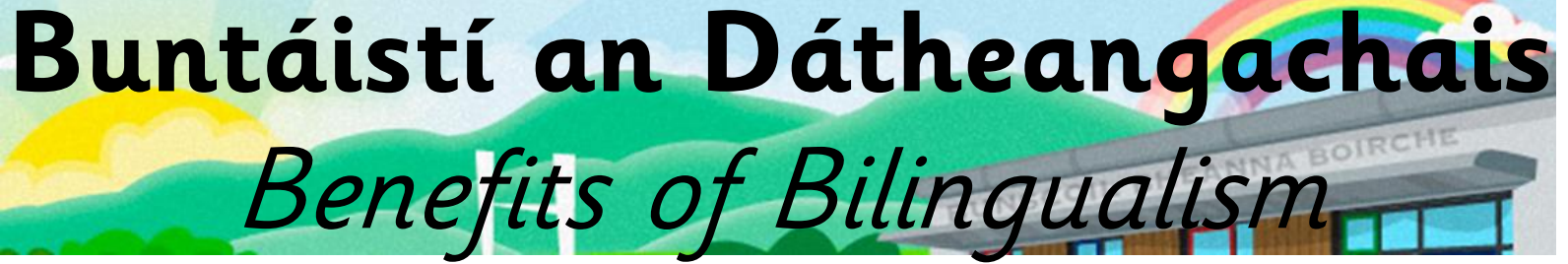
- <https://abair.ie/ga>
- <https://www.tearma.ie/>
- <https://focloir.ie/>
- <https://www.teanglann.ie/ga/>

Remember, homework is a REVISION of content covered in class.



Past pupils of Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche have gone on to attend the following schools:

- St. Malachy's High School, Castlewellan (English and Irish Streams)
- Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch
- Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle
- St. Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel
- St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick
- New-bridge Integrated College, Banbridge
- Sacred Heart Grammar, Newry
- Our Lady's Grammar school, Newry




# Buntáistí an Dátheangachais

## *Benefits of Bilingualism*

- Research published by DENI indicate that former pupils of Irish-medium schools attained a higher academic standard than the general population of the same age group ([Gallagher & Hanna 2002](#)).
- Research consistently finds that the immersion experience actually enhances English language development ([Cloud, Genesee & Hamayan 2000](#)).
- Over three decades of studies consistently show that immersion students achieve as well as or better than non-immersion peers on standardized measures of verbal and mathematics skills administered in English ([Cloud, Genesee & Hamayan 2000](#); [Genesee 1987](#)).
- Research from European countries would suggest that children in Irish-medium schools may find it easier to learn further languages ([Cenoz & Valencia 1994](#)).

# Buntáistí an Dátheangachais



## *Benefits of Bilingualism*



**PUPILS BECOME BILINGUAL AND PROFICIENT IN TWO LANGUAGES, BOTH SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY**


“ My parents made the decision to send me to an Irish-medium school. They gave me the chance to become bilingual naturally. Now I speak two languages and have double the opportunities for the future. ”

(Adam, Year 10 Pupil)



**Register NOW!** For more information call 028 9032 1475



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**PUPILS BECOME BILINGUAL AND PROFICIENT IN TWO LANGUAGES, BOTH SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY**

“ When you witness your children going through Irish-medium education, it's a wonder to behold. They think in two languages, they speak in two languages, they experiment with language and have a greater appreciation of language. It's amazing how quickly they get used to learning through Irish. ”

(Emma, Parent)



**Register NOW!** For more information call 028 9032 1475

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**Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí**

*Praise the youth and they will flourish*

[www.bunscoilbb.com](http://www.bunscoilbb.com)



Ceist ar bith?  
Any questions?