

Irish Policy

Gaelscoil Ros Eo

2010

Introduction

Gaelscoil Ros Eo is a co-educational, all-Irish, Catholic primary school set up by parents in 2008 under the patronage of the Foras Pátrúnachta, to cater for the demand for all-Irish primary education in the local area.

This policy is a collaborative document created by the School Teachers, Parents' Association Committee and Board of Management.

Aims

Gaelscoil Ros Eo is an all-Irish school in which Irish is:

- The official school language,
- Used for communication and for all activities,
- Used for teaching and learning in all subjects other than English,
- Used between teachers,
- Used between school staff and children,
- Used for communication between the children when participating in all school events.

Immersion education is used in Gaelscoil Ros Eo. This means that the children will be immersed in the Irish language from their first day in the school. Irish is used as the language of communication from their first day on. English is not taught until Term 2 in Senior Infants.

The child's Irish name is used in the school roll. If there are different versions of names available this will be discussed with the parents. Parents are encouraged to use the child's Irish name in school in order to develop the child's Irish identity and to foster the school's ethos.

The use of Irish is linked to the school's code of behaviour. It is through encouragement and positive motivation that Irish is best improved – encouragement, praise, prizes, extra play time etc.

On the recommendation of our Patron, Foras Pátrúnachta na Scoileanna Lán-Ghaelacha, the Board of Management will operate through Irish as much as possible. All communication with state departments will be conducted through Irish as much as possible.

The Speaking of Irish

Aims

To develop the child's listening and communication skills through Irish,

- To develop the child's literacy skills through Irish,
- To foster and develop the child's ability to use Irish as their everyday language,
- To foster the child's confidence in Irish and to develop their sense of pride in the language,
- That the children enjoy learning through Irish,
- To enhance their fluency, pronunciation and richness of language.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Children

The language is learned through music, play, actions, sport, drama and poetry. The children are encouraged to speak Irish and to be proud of their language. Their efforts are encouraged in a variety

of ways, including:

- Irish speakers of the week,
- Irish speakers of the year,
- Prizes for speaking Irish,
- Special prizes for speaking Irish,
- Homework Passes.

The children are encouraged to use the Irish language in environments other than at school or school

events / activities.

- Between themselves at home,
- With relatives that have an understanding of the language,
- To make use of Irish mediums of communication and ICT,
- To read Irish books.

The Parents

Parents/guardians are encouraged to speak Irish on school grounds and particularly when in the school building and are encouraged to draw the Irish language into the home and the lives of their children.

To assist parents:

- Vocabulary is provided to the parents which can be used with the children,
- Irish classes are made available, when possible.

The Irish Rule

Gaelscoil Ros Eo strives to provide children with the highest standard of education through Irish. All the children must understand that they are obliged to use Irish at all times. Children are praised for their use of Irish but the strategies mentioned in the Code of Behaviour will be enforced for children who regularly ignore the Irish rule – that Irish is the only language to be used when

communicating with others at school, in class and when participating in all school events.

Success Criteria

- Increase in the use of Irish in the class, school or at any school event,
- Increase in the children's positive attitude towards Irish,
- Increase in the children's ability to access the curriculum through Irish.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly in the future, as is necessary.

Ratification

Ratified by the Board of Management on 2010.