

## Introduction:

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin is an All Irish speaking school in which Irish is the language of communication and business of the school, the language through which every subject is taught with the exception of English, the language spoken, at all times, between teachers, between teachers and pupils and between pupils themselves – in the school, the schoolyard, on the bus, on school tours and during after school activities.

## School Spirit:

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin will support and nurture, totally, the education of its pupils through the medium of Irish. Respect for the country and its culture and heritage will be conveyed through the school. The Gaelscoil will function under a joint Catholic/Protestant ethos, recognizing the way the denominations enrich life in Ireland, in their own special way. Tolerance and understanding will be encouraged, for the methods of worship of both denominations as well as respect for the articles of worship of other people.

Pupils are encouraged do their best in all their endeavours at school and in later life. Pupils will be encouraged to interact with and respect their environment.

## The teaching of religion:

The Interdenominational School facilitates both Christian traditions and follows the religious syllabi fully as set down by the respective Diocesan Bishops. In the case where children from only one denomination are enrolled in the school or the class this policy will be followed by giving the pupils an understanding of the other religion. Pupils will be prepared for the sacraments.

## General:

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin is setting out its enrolment policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998. Within the parameters of D.E.S. Regulations and programmes, the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act, and the funding and resources available, Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin supports the principles of equality of access. No child will be refused admission for reasons of ethnicity, special educational needs, disability, language/accent, gender, traveller status, asylum-seeker/refugee status, religious/political beliefs and values, family or social circumstances.

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin depends on grants and teacher resources provided by the Department of Education and Science and it operates within the regulations laid down, from time to time, by the Department. School policy will be governed by the funding and resources available.

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin follows the curriculum programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act(1998).

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin is an All Irish, Catholic/Protestant interdenominational primary school operating under the patronage of Foras Pátrúnachta na Scoileanna Lán-Ghaeilge. The Board of Management is responsible for upholding the characteristic spirit of Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin.

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin is a co-educational school, teaching classes from Naíonáin Shóisir to Rang a 6. Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin currently has 14 teachers including the principal. The school has three full time Learning Support/Resource Teachers.

School commences at 8.40am and finishes at 1.20pm for both Junior and Senior Infant classes and at 2.20pm for other classes.

## Enrolment Procedure

1. Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin recognises that the majority of parents who send their children to a Gaelscoil have only a little Irish. Parents seeking to enrol their children in Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin are requested to return a completed Application Form (available in the office) and birth Certificate, up to and including registration week. Applicants will be given a copy of An Beartas Clárúcháin and Beartas Gaeilge. A Registration Week will be held around November each year.
2. While recognising the right of parents to enrol their children in the school of their choice, The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin is also responsible for protecting the rights of the existing school community and in particular, the children already enrolled. This requires balanced judgements, which are guided by the principle of natural justice and acting in the best interests of all the children. Assisting the school in such circumstances, The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of children in each separate classroom bearing in mind:
  - Developing and maintaining a high standard of Gaeilge in the school
  - Size of /available space in classrooms
  - educational needs of children of a particular age
  - Multi-grade classes
  - Presence of children with special educational needs.

In the event of the number of children seeking enrolment in any given class exceeding the number of places available preceding, or during the school year, the following criteria will be used to prioritise children for enrolment:

- a) Brothers and sisters ( including step-siblings, resident at the same address) of children already enrolled.
- b) Children of Staff working in the school.
- c) Deferrals from previous year
- d) The oldest pupils on the waiting list.
- e) In the event of being unable to enrol a child(ren) from category a, b, c in a given class at the beginning of the year, or mid-year, such children will receive priority( in order a, b, c,) for the subsequent school year over other children on the class registration list.

5. Pupils wishing to transfer from other schools are enrolled subject to the Rules governing National Schools as well as Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin's enrolment policy and local agreements with other schools.

6. Children who are enrolled in Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin are required to co-operate with, and support the School Code of Behaviour as well as all other policies on Gaelige, Curriculum, organisation and Management. The Board of Management places Parents/Guardians responsible for ensuring that their child(ren) co-operate with the said policies in an age appropriate way.

## Children with Special Needs

With regard to applications for the enrolment of children with special needs the Board of Management will request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report or where such a report is not available, will request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her disability or special needs and to profile the support services required.

Following receipt of the report, the Board will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report. Where the Board deems that further resources are required, it will, prior to enrolment, request the Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) to provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the psychological and/or medical report. These resources may include for example, access to or the provision of any or a combination of the following: visiting teacher service, resource teacher for special needs, special needs assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport services or other.

The school will meet with the parents of the child and with the SENO to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. Where necessary, a full case conference involving all parties will be held, which may include parents, principal, class teacher, learning support teacher, special class teacher, resource teacher for special needs, Special Educational Needs Organiser or psychologist, as appropriate.

## Appeals

The Board of Management of a school is also obliged under section 19(3) of the Educational Welfare Act 2000 to make a decision in writing in respect of an application for enrolment within 21 days and to inform the parents in writing of that decision.

Where a Board of Management refuses to enrol a student in a school, the parent of the student, following the conclusion of any appeal procedures at school level, has a statutory entitlement under

section 29 of the Education Act (as amended by Section 4 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007, to appeal that decision to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science. A committee is established to hear the appeal with hearings conducted with a minimum of formality. In most cases appeals must be dealt with within 30 days. Where appropriate, the Secretary General may give whatever directions to the Board of Management that are considered necessary to remedy the matter complained of.

- Parents/guardians will be informed of their entitlement to appeal a decision of the Board of Management in relation to suspension or expulsion by the Board of Management when such decisions arise.
- The Board of Management will prepare a response if and when an appeal is being investigated by the Dept of Education and Science

Pupils transferring from Other Schools:

Pupils can transfer to the school at any time depending on the school policy, space available in the particular class and in some cases permission from the Department of Education.

## Review:

Devised	
Reviewed	November 2016
Next Review	September 2017