

**GAELSCOIL LÉIM AN MHADAIDH**  
**Irish Medium Primary School**



**Fáilte go Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh!**  
*Welcome to Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh!*

## **OUR ETHOS**

Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh is an interdenominational school dedicated to the linguistic, intellectual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils through the medium of the Irish language. Our pupils feel safe, secure and valued at school. We develop our pupils through a school, home and community partnership, which affords every child the chance to thrive.

This ethos underpins teaching and learning and provides an environment which prepares our pupils as happy, confident contributors to society.

## **OUR AIMS**

Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with children:

- to develop the academic, physical, social, moral and emotional abilities of every child so that he/she can reach their full potential;
- to provide each child with a broad, balanced curriculum in keeping with the aims of the common curriculum and encourage each child to achieve his/her potential in all curriculum areas;
- to promote equality of educational opportunity for all;
- to promote each child's awareness of his/her own identity and heritage and have respect for other traditions & cultures;
- to develop a sense of fairness, tolerance, respect and responsibility towards others;
- to develop enquiring minds, confidence and a sense of curiosity.
- to celebrate their self-worth and realise their abilities, achievements, strengths, and personal preferences;
- to instil in our pupils, life-long learning by motivating pupils to take responsibility for their own learning;
- to promote an awareness of the need for rules and regulations within the school environment and to encourage respect for them;
- to take ownership of their environment both locally and globally.

We will strive to help each child achieve success through experiencing:

- broad, balanced and challenging curriculum based learning;
- a stimulating and challenging learning environment;
- a varied programme of extra-curricular activities, school visits and trips;
- an ethos that is supportive, encouraging and friendly;
- an effective partnership between school, home and the wider community;

- a variety of teaching approaches and strategies to meet the needs and learning styles of all pupils; and,
- access to a range of varied and up to date resources.

### **Primary One staff**

Charmaine Uí Dhaighre (Teacher)

Mary Gore (Assistant)

### **School Responsibilities**

Eoghan Ó Grada	Principal / Assessment
Charmaine Uí Dhaighre	Pastoral Care (SENCO & Child Protection)
Sinéad Ní Dhúghaill	Literacy
Mícheál Ó Dufaigh	Numeracy & ICT

### **School times**

The school day runs from 08.50 - 14.15 for P1 and P2 pupils. The school gate will open at 08.35am every day for the breakfast club. If a child comes in at this time they must go to the breakfast room, NOT the classroom. There will be a cost of 20p per day for breakfast.

There will be a phased induction every year for our new children to help them settle in. The children in primary 1 will attend school in the mornings only for the first fortnight from 08.50 - 12.00.

### **Break time (10.15am)**

A snack of fruit/vegetables with milk/water will be given to every child each morning. We would ask that you pay **£1.50** every week (to be paid online via your Parent Pay account) to pay for snacks & milk. The children will be encouraged to brush their teeth after break every day. Each child will also have their own bottle of water in the classroom to drink during the school day.

**Lunch time (12.15pm)**

School dinners will be available to children at a cost of £2.60 per day or children may bring a packed lunch with them everyday. The lunch must be healthy, for example fruit, vegetables, cheese, yogurt, sandwiches, water etc. The children are not allowed to bring sweets, crisps, chocolate or fizzy drinks to school. Parents must apply to EA to get free school meals or ring them on 028 82411411.

School lunches will not begin for primary 1 until week 3

**Sickness or accidents**

If your child becomes sick at school or has an accident you will be asked to come and collect him/her and take them home. Please don't send sick children to school or children who were sick the previous night.

Parents must phone the school on 028 77722210 or send in a note if their child has been absent from school with the reason.

**School uniform**

The school uniform is a maroon v-neck jumper with the school's logo, a white shirt, dark grey trousers or skirt and black shoes. The uniforms are sold in 'John Pauls' or Chaps-Subzero in Limavady.

You should write your child's name clearly on all items of clothing.

**Behaviour**

We always place a great emphasis on good behaviour. We praise good behaviour with rewards e.g. praise cards, weekly trophies, notes home, certificates, tea and biscuits with the principal, extra playtime etc. We do also however have a traffic light behaviour system in place in primary 1 & 2 which we use if needed. All children in primary 1 & 2 begin in the morning with their names on the green light and if there are behaviour issues raised during the day their names will be moved to the orange and red lights. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to talk to your child about this system.

Yellow and red card systems are in place in Key Stage 1 and 2.

### **School Based Childcare**

In Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh we can take care of your childcare needs for a fraction of the cost of other childcare providers. Our 'Spórt is Spraoi' Team is very dedicated to creating a fun and safe environment for pupils after the school day. We are fully registered as a childcare provider with the WHSCT and are open to drop-in inspections throughout the year. Our team is qualified in childcare, child protection and paediatric first aid. Speak to the team between 2pm-6pm any day for more information.

*\*Fees apply*

### **An Curaclam**

#### *The Curriculum*

- Irish language & literacy
- Maths & numeracy
- The Arts (including role-play, drama, & music)
- The World Around Us (early geography, history & science)
- Personal Development & Mutual understanding (including religious awareness)
- Physical development & movement
- Religious awareness

### ***Cén dóigh an dtig liom bheith ag cuidiú le mo pháiste?***

#### *How can I help my child?*

- Spend time with your child; it's the most precious gift you can give. Limit ICT devices, such as mobiles and tablets for children and adults. Your child learns from you first- you are your child's first teacher. Too many young children are beginning schools with 'device addictions'. They can be quiet and behave on devices and so they are given them often. These children can struggle to listen at school, their speech isn't always developed as it should be and they may experience difficulties with emotions.
- Remember your child is an individual; don't compare them to others.
- Read regularly at home; "A child who reads often, reads well."
- Make full use of the local library.
- Encourage your child to use their imagination when playing.

- Recite nursery rhymes to your child and encourage him/her to learn them by heart.
- Help your child to be independent when beginning primary 1; teach him/her to put on and take off their own coat, do buttons, zips, hang up clothes and open and close their schoolbags/lunchboxes.
- Discuss good behaviour at school and in the home.
- Play with your child and answer their questions; children are curious and this is part of learning.
- Try to make sure that your child knows their basic colours, shapes and numbers when beginning primary 1; this will help them to be more confident when recalling these in the classroom and will be a good starting point for the teacher to develop further.
- Recite the alphabet to him/her.
- Your child will learn to **read and write with the phonics system**, as in all schools now. They will first read and write **lower case letters** so please **do not** encourage them to write their **names using capital letters**. We will also put emphasis on 'sounds' rather than 'letters'.
- Encourage him/her to write and draw as much as possible. It takes a long time for a child to become comfortable with a pencil. Encourage your child to write his/her name as often as possible.
- Try to ensure that your child goes to bed early. Sleepy children find it difficult to learn, often misbehave as they are not in the right form to learn or listen, and generally don't enjoy school.
- Bring your child shopping with you and let him/her help with putting the shopping away. Sorting is the most important mathematical skill in the first two years of education.
- Finally PRAISE your child often!

### **Policies for parents**

The following policies are available upon request from the school's secretary;

- Child protection
- Positive Behaviour
- Attendance
- Anti-Bullying
- Assessment
- Numeracy

- Literacy
- The World Around Us
- Curriculum
- ICT
- E-Safety
- Use of Mobile Phones
- Relationship and Sexuality Education
- Intimate Care
- Complaints
- First Aid
- Healthy Eating

### **Child Protection**

The following are members of the school's Safeguarding Team:

- Chair of the Board of Governors (BRIAN TIERNEY )
- Designated Governor for Child Protection (LIAM MAC GIOLLA MHEANA)
- Principal (EOGHAN Ó GRADA)
- Designated Teacher (CHARMAINE DEERY)
- Deputy Designated Teacher (SINÉAD DOYLE)

**\*A hard copy of our full child protection policy is issued to all new parents each year.**