

Gaelscoil Uí Néill

Gaelscoil Uí Néill was the first Irish-medium Primary School to open in Tyrone, in 1995. Since then, the school has gone from strength to strength, with hundreds of pupils passing through the school gates over the years. Gaelscoil Uí Néill has also provided the impetus for the opening of Irish-medium schools in Dungannon (Gaelscoil Aodha Rua), in Cookstown (Gaelscoil Eoghain) and Donaghmore (Scoil Iósaef – The Irish-medium stream of St. Joseph's Grammar School). As a result of the vision of the founders of the school, Gaelscoil Uí Néill has lead the way in the revival of the Irish language in Tyrone, while at the same time giving all our pupils a great start in life through our child-centred, bilingual approach to education. Please take the time to read this booklet and, if you want to learn more about the school, please contact Conor on 87749178.



Free Copy

Bhí Gaelscoil Uí Néill ar an chéad Ghaelscoil A osclaí i dTír Eoghain, i 1995. Ón am sin, chuaigh an scoil ó neart go neart, leis na céadta daltaí ag dul trí gheataí na scoile thar na blianta. Spreag Gaelscoil Uí Néill oscailt Gaelscoileanna i nDún Geanainn (Gaelscoil Aodha Rua), ar an Chorr Chríochach (Gaelscoil Eoghain) agus an Domhnach Mór (Scoil Iósaef – Sruth Gaeilge de Scoil Ghramadaí Naomh Iósaef). Mar gheall ar fhís bhunaitheoirí na scoile, bhí Gaelscoil Uí Néill taobh thiar d'athbheochan na Gaeilge i dTír Eoghain agus, ag an am céanna, ag tabhairt tús maith dár ndaltaí trí chur chuige páiste-lárnach, dátheangach i leith an oideachais. Glac an t-am leis an leabhrán seo a léamh le do thoil agus, dá mba mhaith leat a thuilleadh a fhoghlaim faoin scoil nó faoi dhátheangachas, gabh idteagmháil le Conor ar 87749178.

Cosáint Páistí agus Cúram Tréadach / Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

Child Protection and Pastoral Care are paramount in Gaelscoil Uí Néill. Children who feel happy and secure at school are more likely to learn. With three designated teachers for Child Protection and a Safeguarding Team that includes members of the Board of Governors, the school works tirelessly to ensure that each and every child is well cared for at school.

Our Preventative Curriculum also ensures that the children develop an understanding themselves of how to stay safe and how to show respect to one another. Our comprehensive programme for Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, in conjunction with our annual Anti-bullying Week and E-Safety Week help our pupils develop an awareness of themselves in a world that is constantly changing.

We pride ourselves in Gaelscoil Uí Néill in ensuring that the children know what to do if they feel unsafe or unsettled and we take the time to listen to the children and make every effort to resolve any conflicts or issues that are affecting the children, no matter how big or how small those concerns are.



Tá Cosáint Páistí agus Cúram Tréadach ríthábhachtach i nGaelscoil Uí Néill. Is mó an seans go bhfoghlaimeoidh daltaí agus iad ar scoil má mhothaíonn siad slán agus sona. Le triúir múinteoirí ainmnithe do Chosáint Páistí agus Foireann Chumhdach a chuimsíonn ball de Bhord na nGobharnóirí, oibríonn an scoil go dícheallach lena dheimhniú go dtugtar aire mhaith do gach dalta ar scoil.

Deimhníonn ár gCuraclam Coisctheach gi bhforbraíonn na daltaí féin tuiscint ar an dóigh le fanacht slán agus le meas a léiriú lena chéile. Cuidíonn ár gClár um Fhorbairt Phearsanta agus Comhthuiscint, i gcomhair lenár Seachtain Frith-bhulaíochta agus R-Shábháilteacht lenár ndaltaí feasacht a fhorbairt orthu féin ar domhan a bhíonn se shíor ag athrú.

Táimid bródúil i nGaelscoil Uí Néill go ndeimhníonn muid go mbíonn a fhios ag na daltaí cad é a ba chóir a dhéanamh má mhothaíonn siad i gcontúirt nó mí-shochair agus glacaimid an t-am le héisteacht le buarthaí nó imní gach dalta, is Cuma cé chomh mór nó beag atá siad.



An Naíscoil / Nursery School



Glacann páistí a chéad chéimeann fáiteach isteach in oideachas foirmiúil tríd an Naíscoil. Tá dhá Naíscoil ag Gaelscoil Uí Néill: An Naíscoil Bheag do pháistí atá 3 bliana d'aois agus Naíscoil Uí Néill, an phríomh-Naíscoil lán-aimseartha (9.00am go 1.30pm, cúig lá sa tseachtain) do pháistí atá ceithre bliana d'aois, ag leanúint Curaclam na Naíscoile go hiomlán.

Is é an príomh-fhócas sa Naíscoil ná an súgradh agus an greann. Leathnaíonn an fhoireann an muinín atá ag na páistí sa bhaile isteach sa scoil lena dheimhniú go socraíonn gach páiste isteach sa Naíscoil chomh gasta agus is féidir leo. Socraíonn na daltaí sa Naíscoil go réidh le nósanna an lae a dhíríonn ar shúgradh istigh, súgradh amuigh, ag ullmhú a smáilceanna féin, am scéil agus ansin an lón. I ndiaidh am loin, ligeann siad a scith le gníomhaíochtaí aireachais sula dtéann siad abhaile.

Maidir le forbairt teanga, cuidíonn an fhoireann leis na daltaí a scileanna teanga glacaí, is é sin an tuiscint s'acu ar an Ghaeilge, a fhorbairt trí thimpeallacht atá saibhir le teanga a sholáthar. Trí athrá le linn an lae, amhráin, rannta, agus scéalta, tuigeann na daltaí an teanga go réidh agus ní fada go mbeidh siad féin ag caint i nGaeilge ar scoil.

Children take their first, tentative steps into formal education through Nursery School. Gaelscoil Uí Néill boasts two Nurseries: An Naíscoil Bheag (the Wee Nursery) for three-year old children and Naíscoil Uí Néill, our main, full-time Nursery (9.00am to 1.30pm, five days a week) for four-year old children, following the full Nursery Curriculum.

The main focus in the Naíscoil is playing and having fun. Our staff seek to extend the bond of trust from home to school in order to ensure that each and every child settles into the play routine as quickly as possible. The children soon settle into the daily routine of indoor play, outdoor play, preparing their own snacks, story time and then lunch. After lunch the children settle down with some relaxation and mindfulness activities before going home.

In terms of language development, the staff help the children develop their receptive language skills, i.e. their understanding of the Irish language through the provision of a language rich environment. Through repetition during daily routines, songs, nursery rhymes and stories, the children soon begin to understand the language and will soon begin to speak it more at school.

Naíscoil



Rang 1 / Primary 1

Primary 1 builds on the work carried out in the Naíscoil and, with the emphasis still squarely on play, our Primary 1 team (teacher and classroom assistant) ensure that the curriculum is delivered in a way that will engage the pupils.

The children begin the day with a range of educationally-based play activities (Learning through Play) that includes literacy, numeracy, ICT as well as activities that will help the pupils develop their gross and fine motor skills. Literacy involves a range of big books as well as the school's very own Reading Scheme, Sraith Uí Néill. Numeracy focuses on developing the children's understanding of the number system as well as number operations, while other areas of maths are mainly developed through the class topics. The children also soon become au fait with the range of ICT resources in class; interactive white board, desktops, laptops, Ipads and remote control devices and other programmable software.

The language of instruction is primarily Irish throughout P1. The children's understanding of Irish improves throughout the year and, while they still often respond in English, the teacher ensures the children continue to develop the necessary receptive languages skills until they are ready themselves to speak in Irish.



Tógann Rang 1 ar an obair a cuireadh sa tsiúl sa Naíscoil agus, leis an bhéim go fóill ar an súgradh, deimhníonn an fhoireann Rang 1 (múinteoir agus cúntóir ranga) go gcuirtear an curaclam i láthair na ndaltaí ar dhóigh spreagthach.

Tosaíonn na daltaí an lá le réimse gníomhaíochtaí súgartha le brí oideachasúil (Foghlaim trí Shúgradh) a chuimsíonn an litearthacht, uimhearthacht, TFC i gcómhair le gníomhaíochta a chuideoidh leis na daltaí a scileanna gluaiseachta a fhorbairt. Cuimsíonn litearthacht réimse leabhar mór i gcomhair le Scéim Léitheoireachta na scoile féin, Sraith Uí Néill. Diríonn an uimhearthacht ar thuiscint den chóras uimhris a fhorbairt i gcomhair le hoibríochtaí uimhreach, leis na hachair eile den mhata forbartha trí thopaicí ranga. Éiríonn na daltaí breá cleachtaithe go luath leis an réimse áiseanna TFC sa rang; clár bán idirghníomhach, ríomhairí deisc agus glúine, Ipadanna agus fearais cianrialaithe i gcomhair le bog-earraí inchláráithe eile.

Is í an Ghaeilge an phríomh-theanga labhartha sa rang le linn R1. Forbraíonn tuiscint na daltaí ar an Ghaeilge i rith na bliana agus, cé gur minic a fhreagraíonn siad go fóill i mBéarla, deimhníonn an múinteoir go mbíonn siad ag forbairt na scileanna teanga glacaí cuí go dtí bhfuil siad féin réidh le labhairt i nGaeilge.

Rang 1



Rang 2 / Primary 2



Rang 2

Arís eile, bíonn cuid mhór gníomhaíochtaí ann atá bunaithe ar an súgradh lena dheimhniú go gcomhlíontar an curaclam. Bíonn na páistí go fóill ag súgradh chéad rud ar maidin ina mbíonn réimse gníomhaíochtaí a chuidíonn leis na daltaí a scileanna litearthachta, uimhearthachta agus eile.

Is le linn Rang 2 a thosaíonn na páistí ag caint i nGaeilge níos minice de ghnáth. De réir mar a théann an bhiaín isteach, is mó a úsáideann na daltaí an Ghaeilge, idir an seomra ranga agus chlós na scoile agus, faoi dheireadh na scoilbhliana, is iomaí páiste a bhíonn ag caint i nGaeilge go nádúrtha ar scoil ar nós an dóigh a mbíonn siad ag caint i mBéarla sa bhaile. Deimhníonn an dúshraith thábhachtach sa Ghaeilge go mbíonn rochtain ag na daltaí ar an churaclam go fóill i gcomhair le hidirghníomhú sóisialta i measc na ndaltaí eile i gclós na scoile.

Bíonn an obair bhaile iontach páiste-chairdiúil, go minic ag cuimsiú gníomhaíochtaí fisiceacha nó cluichí le linn R1 & 2. Bíonn obair bhaile mata i gcónaí dátheangach lena dheimhniú go mbíonn ionchur ag tuismitheoirí in oideacha a bpáistí agus déantar an obair bheile Gaeilge ar dhóigh a gcothaíonn an neamh-spleáchas.

Once again, Primary 2 incorporates a lot of play-based activities in order to ensure curriculum delivery. The children continue to begin the day with an hour's play first thing in the morning, during which they are once again presented with a range of activities that help the children develop their literacy, numeracy and other skills.

It is usually during P2 that the pupils begin to express themselves more in Irish. As the year progresses, the children begin to use their Irish more and more, both in the classroom and in the school yard and, by the end of the school year, most of the children are speaking in Irish in school as naturally as they speak English with you at home. This important foundation in the Irish language ensures continued access to the curriculum as well facilitating social interaction with their peers in the school yard.

Homework is particularly child-friendly at this stage, often involving physical activities or games throughout P1 & 2. All maths homework is presented bilingually so as to ensure parental involvement in the children's education and development while Irish homework is designed to be completed independently.

Primary 2



Rang 3 / Primary 3



Cé nach mbíonn an fócas céanna ar chúrsaí súgartha, bíonn an bhéim níos mó ar fhoghlaim ghníomhac; cur chuige a dheimhníonn go ndeartar na ceachtanna ar dhóigh a dheimhníonn go mbíonn na daltaí ag dul do ghníomhaíocht nó obair ghrúpa. Deimhníonn an chur chuige seo leibhéil níos airde spreagtha i measc na ndaltaí agus deimhníonn sé go bhfeiceann siad an luach san ábhar foghlama s'acu.

Tosaíonn an Béarla go foirmiúil i Rang 3. Sa chéad téarma, tosaíonn na páistí bheith ag caint i mBéarla le héascaitheoirí taobh amuigh den scoil agus, sa dara téarma, bíonn an múinteoir ag dul do léitheoireacht i gcomhpháirt le leabhair mhóra. I ndiaidh measúnaithe den léitheoireacht go foirmiúil ag an Cháisc i Rang 3, tosaíonn na daltaí ar cheachtanna foirmiúla Béarla sa tríú téarma, ag tógáil ar na scileanna litaerthachta a d'fhorbair siad cheana féin i nGaeilge, m.sh. fónaic, gramadach agus poncaíocht i gcomhair le tuiscint na ndaltaí ar théacsanna ficsin agus neamh-fhicsin.

Amhail Rang 2, tugtar obair bhaile mata amach go dátheangach agus deartar obair bhaile Ghailge na ndaltaí sa dóigh is go mbíonn na daltaí ábalta a chríochnúgo neamh-spleách. Tosaíonn obair bhaile Bhéarla i Rang 4.

Déanann na daltaí an Chéad Fhaoistinn i Rang 3.

While the focus moves away somewhat from play-based learning in Primary 3, the emphasis shifts to active learning; an approach that ensures that lessons are designed and presented in such a way as to engage the children in activities and group work. This approach leads to higher levels of motivation among the pupils and helps ensure that they see value in what they are learning.

English begins formally in Primary 3. In the first term, the children begin to speak in English during pre-planned activities with external facilitators while, in the second term, the teacher engages the children in shared reading using big books. Following initial reading in English assessment at Easter in Primary 3, the children begin formal English lessons in the third term, building on the literacy skills the children have already developed in Irish e.g. phonics, grammar & punctuation as well of the children's understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Like Primary 2, all maths homework is presented bilingually while the children's Irish homework is designed in such a way so that the children can complete it independently. Homework in English begins in Primary 4.

The children make their First Confession in Primary 3.



Rang 4 / Primary 4



Rang 4

Méadaíonn an obair i Rang 4 mar a bhfaighean na daltaí ceachtanna liteartachta i mBéarla agus Gaeilge, i gcomhair leis na hachair eile den churaclam. Deimhníonn muid go gclúdaítear gach achar den churaclam trí chur chuige iomlánaithe, ag díriú ar an bhun-choincheap agus ag brath ar aistriú scil idir an dá theanga, rud a chothaíonn scileanna smaointeoireachta i measc na ndaltaí féin.

Tá dhá imeacht mhóra i R4: Seó na Nollag agus an Chéad Chomaoineach Naofa. Ag an Nollaig gach bliain, cuireann na daltaí ó Rang 4 iontas ar an lucht féachana lena léiriú de *Carúl Nollag* le Charles Dickens. Níos moille sa bhliain, gléasann na gasúir agus cailíní ina gcultacha agus gúnaí galánta le sult a bhaint as an Chéad Chomaoineach Naofa s'acu.

Tosaíonn obair bhaile sa Bhéarla i Rang 4 agus, ag brath ar leibhéil na bpáistí, cirimid obair bhaile bunaithe ar an ábaltacht s'acu, bíodh is gur fónaic atá ann nó rud níos dúshlánaí. Le linn R4, faigheann na daltaí obair bhaile mata gach oíche, a chuirfear i láthair na ndaltaí go dátgeangach.

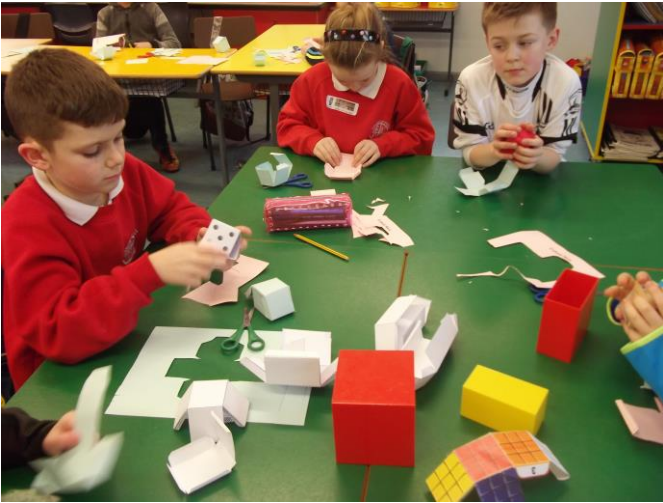
The work intensifies in Primary 4 as the pupils receive formal lessons in literacy in both English and Irish each day, as well as each of the other areas of the curriculum. We aim to ensure that all areas of the curriculum are covered through an integrated approach, focussing on the basic concept and rely on the transfer of skills between the two languages, which in itself helps the pupils develop their thinking skills.

There are two big events in P4: the Christmas Show and First Holy Communion. At Christmas time, each year, the pupils from Primary 4 wow the audience with their seasonal performance of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Later in the year in May, the boys and girls get dressed up in their suits and dresses for a lovely time on the day of their First Holy Communion.

English homework begins in Primary 4 and, depending on the children's level, we set the homework depending on their abilities, whether it is phonics-based or something more challenging. Throughout P4, pupils receive maths homework every night, which is presented to them bilingually.



Rang 5 / Primary 5



Rang 5

Is ionann Rang 5 agus tús Eochairchéim 2, éiríonn an obair níos deacra, le hionchais níos airde againn ar cad is féidir leis na daltaí baint amach. Daingníonn muid an obair a rinneadh go nuige seo agus cuidíonn muid leis na daltaí a neamhspleáchas mar fhoghlaimeoirí.

I ndiaidh na measúnúithe caighdeánaithe ag deireadh Rang 4 sa Ghaeilge, Béarla agus sa Mhata, bunaíonn muid na cláir staidéir i ngach ceann de na cro-ábhair ar riachtanais an ranga féin agus ar riachtanais na ndaltaí aonair, nuair is cuí sin. Sholáthair an scoil aistriúcháin den Teist Mata, *Progress in Maths*, i gcomhair le leagan Ultach de *Scrúdú Léitheoireachta Dhroim Conrach i nGaeilge* agus, i gcomhair leis an teist léitheoireachta i mBéarla, *Progress in English*, táimid ábalta díriú ar na príomh-achair agus an teagasc a chur in oiriúint dá réir.

Faoin am seo, is minic a bhíonn na daltaí go hiomlán neamhspleách leis an obair bhaile s'acu i ngach achar, ach go fóill beag tugaimid obair bhaile mata amach go dátheangach sa dóigh is go dtig leis na daltaí an fheasacht s'acu ar an téarmaíocht mata cuí a fhorbairtily.

Primary 5 is the beginning of Key Stage 2; the work gets a bit harder, with higher expectations of what the children can achieve. We seek to consolidate the work done to date and begin to help the pupils develop their independence as learners.

Following on from the children's standardised tests at the end of Primary 4 in Irish, English and Maths, we seek to tailor the programme of study in each of the core subjects to the requirements of the class and to the individual requirements of the children, when appropriate. The school has produced a translation of the Maths Test, *Progress in Maths*, as well as an Ulster Irish version of the *Drumcondra Reading Test in Irish* and, in conjunction with the English reading test, *Progress in English*, we are able to pinpoint how each child is doing in the key areas and tailor the teaching accordingly.

By now, the pupils are usually fully independent with their homework in all areas, but we still provide the maths homework bilingually so that the children can develop their familiarity of the necessary maths terminology.

Primary 5



Rang 6 / Primary 6

Primary 6 is a big year in any school. While the school does not formally prepare the children for the Grammar School Entrance Test during school hours, in line with Department of Education Guidelines, we run after-school classes twice a week from the first term completely free of charge. These classes centre on helping the pupils develop the necessary skills and knowledge for the big test.

Pupils in Irish-medium schools sit the Grammar School Entrance Test through the medium of Irish. The Maths section of the test is a translation of the equivalent on the English paper, but the Literacy section is not a translation, but rather a range of passages and questions specifically tailored to Irish-medium schools.

While not all the pupils in the school sit the Grammar School Entrance Test, we have developed a range of resources to support all pupils as, at some stage in their school lives, they will have to sit exams and early preparation can make all the difference.

The pupils are well versed in their homework at this stage, but we do send home 24 practice tests over the summer solely in Irish!



Rang 6



Is bliain mhór í Rang 6 i scoil ar bith. Cé nach n-ullmhaíonn an scoil na páistí do Scrúdú Iontrála na Scoileanna Gramadaí le linn am scoile, i líne le treoirínte ón Roinn Oideachais, bíonn ranganna iarscoile againn dhá lá sa tseachtain ón chéad téarma ar aghaidh, go hiomlán saor in aisce. Díríonn na ranganna se oar chuidiú a thabhairt do na daltaí na scileanna agus an t-eolas cuí a fhorbairt don scrúdú mór.

Déanann daltaí Gaelscoile Scrúdú Iontrála na Scoileanna Gramadaí tríd an Ghaeilge amháin. Is aistriúchán é an chuid Mata den scrúde den mhacasamhail ar an pháipéar Béarla, ach ní aistriúchán é an chuid Litearthachta, ach réimse sleachta agus ceistanna atá dearth do na Gaelscoileanna amháin.

Cé nach suíonn gach dalta sa scoil Scrúdú Iontrála na Scoileanna Gramadaí, d'fhorbair muid réimse áiseanna le tacú le gach dalta mar, ag pointe éigin ina saolta scoile, beidh ar na páistí dul faoi scrúdú agus is féidir go ndéanfaidh ullmhúchán luath difear mór.

Bíonn na daltaí breá cleachtaithe leis an obair bhaile faoin am seo, ach cuirimid 24 teist chleachtaithe chun an bhaile thar an samhradh i nGaeilge amháin!

Rang 7 / Primary 7



Is ionann Rang 7 agus an bhliain dheireanach dár ndaltaí mar a dhéanann siad réidh le bogadh ar aghaidh chuig saol mór na hiar-bhunscoile. Bíonn tús na bliana iontach dian mar a n-ullmhaíonn na daltaí do Scrúdú Iontrála na Scoileanna Gramadaí i mí na Samhna. Bíonn ár ranganna ullmhaithe scrúdaithe ann 4 lá tseachtain anois don chéad trí mhí leis na daltaí ag fanacht ar scoil gach lá go dtí 4.30pm gach lá (ná bí buartha, ní bhíonn obair bhaile acu ar na laethanta seo). Cé go dtig leis na daltaí aistriú go Sruth Gaeilge de Naomh Iósaf, an Domhnach Mór, gan an scrúdú, déanann formhór na ndaltaí an scrúdú go fóill beag, le torthaí an-mhaith thar na blianta.

Baineann an chuid eile den bhliain leis na páistí a dhéanamh réidh don bhogadh mór go dtí an scoil mhór agus déanaimid iarracht go mbíonn eispéiris dhearfacha den Bhunscoil acu le linn a míonna deireanacha. Déanann siad cúrsa ar chumas rothaíochta, reachtálann siad Aonach Leabhar, eagraíonn siad bliits peile do na Gaelscoileanna agus téann siad ar réimse turas. Cuireann siad an-iarracht isteach le seó dheireadh na bliana s'acu, a mbíonn dúil mhór ag na tuismitheoirí ann gach bliain.

Primary 7 is the final year for our pupils as they begin to get ready to move into the big, wide world of Post-primary school. The beginning of the year is very intense as the pupils prepare for the Grammar School Entrance Test in November. Our after-school exam preparation classes go up to 4 days a week for the first three months, with the pupils staying in school until 4.30pm each day (don't worry, they are exempt from homework at this time). While the pupils can transfer to the Irish-medium stream of St. Joseph's, Donaghmore, without the test, the vast majority of pupils still sit the test, with very good results over the years.

The remainder of the year seeks to help pupils prepare for the big move to the big school and to ensuring that the final few months of Primary School are as memorable as possible. They undergo a cycling proficiency course, run a book fair, organise a football blitz for Irish-medium schools and go on a range of trips and excursions. They also put in a huge effort for the end-of-year show, which is always a big hit for the children and the parents. Then it's farewell as the children move on to the next stage of their education.



Iar-bhunscolaíocht / Post-Primary

When the children reach the end of Primary 7 in Gaelscoil Uí Néill, this is not necessarily the end of their education through the medium of Irish. While the majority of pupils in recent years have transferred to Scoil Iósaef, this has not always been the case. Over the years, many of the pupils have transferred to the Academy, the Convent and St. Joseph's College, Coalisland.

Approximately 80-90% of pupils from the school have transferred to Scoil Iósaef each year since its opening in 2010, their parents wishing for them to continue their education through the medium of Irish, largely due to the positive experience they have had here in Gaelscoil Uí Néill. Our past pupils' results at GCSE in recent years have been exceptional, with the vast majority attaining the grades to go on to do A Levels. Similarly, the A Level results have been equally outstanding, with the vast majority of pupils attaining the grades to go on to university.

At the same time, those pupils who have transferred to English-medium post-primary schools have fared equally well as their standards in English at transfer have allowed them to transfer to monolingual schools without difficulty.



Post

Primary



Nuair a bhaineann na daltaí deireadh Rang 7 amach i nGaelscoil Uí Néill, ní de riachtanas gurb ionann sin agus deireadh leis an oideachas s'acu trí mheán na Gaeilge. Cé gur aistrigh formhór na ndaltaí le blianta beaga anuas chuig Scoil Iósaef, ní hamhlaidh mar a bhí i gcónaí. Thar na blianta, is iomaí daltaí a d'aistrigh chuig an Acadamh, an Clochar agus chuig Coláiste Naomh Iósaef, Oileán an Ghuail.

D'aistrigh thart fá 80-90% de na daltaí chuig Scoil Iósaef gach bliain ó d'oscail sí i 2010, a dtuismitheoirí ag iarraidh go leanfadh siad ar aghaidh leis an oideachas s'acu trí mheán na Gaeilge, mar gheall go príomha ar na heispéiris a bhí ag a bpáistí anseo i nGaelscoil Uí Néill. Bhí torthaí ár n-íardhaltaí as cuimse maith le blianta anuas, leis an fhormhór ag fáil na ngrádanna le dul ar aghaidh le A Leibhéil a dhéanamh. Ar an téad chéanna, bhí na torthaí A Leibhéil chomh hiontach céanna, le formhór na ndaltaí ag fail na ngrádanna le dul ar aghaidh chuig Ollscoil.

Ag an am céanna, d'éirigh go geal leis na daltaí sin a d'aistrigh chuig iar-bhunscoileanna Béarla de bhrí go raibh siad ábalta asitriú go réidh chuig scoileanna aonteangacha gan stró.

Tras-churaclaim agus Scoil Shínte / Extra-curricular and Extended School



Extra

Taobh amuigh den seomra ranga, tá cuid mhór le tariscint ag Gaelscoil Uí Néill do dhaltaí na scoile. Reachtálann eagraíocht taca na scoile, Cairde Uí Néill, seribhís chúram leanaí do theaghlaigh a bhíonn ag obair go dtí 5.30pm gach lá ag rátaí an-réasúnta. Cuireann Cairde Uí Néill ranganna Gaeilge ar fail do thuismitheoirí ag gach leibhéal, le cuid tuismitheoirí ag dul ar aghaidh le staidéar a dhéanamh ar an Ghaeilge ag an tríú leibhéal i ndiaidh tosú ar an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim ón tús anseo i nGaelscoil Uí Néill. Cuireann an scoil an clár taca Tuismitheoirí i bPáirtnéireacht ar fáil le cuidiú le tuismitheoirí tacaíocht a thabhairt in oideachas a bpáistí. Chomh maith leis sin, fostaíonn an scoil Teiripeoir Cainte agus Urlabhra le tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhorbairt teanga na ndaltaí óga.

Do na páistí féin, bíonn clár iarscoile an-rathúil againn, a chuimsíonn: ranganna ceoil cócaireacht, teicneolaíocht, peil, iomáint/camógaíocht, sacar, cispheil, ficheall, club scannáin, club ealaíne, drámaíocht agus damhsa Gaelach i measc rudaí eile. Bíonn na clubanna seo uilig saor in aisce. Reachtálann muid Scéim Samhraidh dhá seachtaine do na daltaí uilig ar tháille beag.

Is iad gnéithe eile de shaol na scoile as a mbaineann na daltaí an-sult ná: turais thopaic-bhunaithe, Spórtatón, gníomhaíochtaí téamaithe don scoil uilig, nasc le Gaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Béarla eile i gcomhair le neart cuairteanna ó ghníomhaireachtaí lasmuigh. Ní bhíonn an saol bréan i nGaelscoil Uí Néill.

Beyond the classroom, Gaelscoil Uí Néill has a lot to offer the pupils of the school. The school's support organisation, Cairde Uí Néill, provides wrap-around childcare provision for working families until 5.30pm each day at very reasonable rates. Cairde Uí Néill also provides Irish classes for parents at all levels, with some parents moving on to third level education after having begun to learn Irish here in Gaelscoil Uí Néill. The school also provides a Parents in Partnership Programme to support parents in the education of their children. The school also employs a Speech and Language Therapist to support the language development of the younger pupils.

For the children themselves, we run a very popular after-school programme, comprising: music classes, cookery, technology, football, hurling/camogie, soccer, basketball, chess, film club, art club, drama and Irish dancing among others. All these clubs are completely free of charge. We also run a two-week Summer Scheme for all pupils for a small daily fee

Other aspects of school life that the pupils really enjoy are such things as: topic-based trips, Sportathon, whole-school themed activities, links with other Irish-medium and English schools as well as many visits from external agencies. Life is never dull in Gaelscoil Uí Néill.

Curricular



Bilingualism

Gaelscoil Uí Néill is not just about the Irish language. There is more of an emphasis on bilingualism in the school and the many benefits for the children associated with a bilingual system of education. Among the advantages of bilingualism are:

- enhanced learning capacity – bilingualism helps children become better learners
- increased self-esteem – bilingualism gives the children a sense of pride in the fact that they can speak two languages fluently
- better thinking skills – bilingualism gives the children a different perspective on the world, which can deepen thinking
- greater potential for creativity – bilingualism helps pupils see the world differently which can enhance creativity
- greater emotional literacy – bilingualism helps children appreciate that most communication is non-verbal
- increased sense of own identity – speaking Irish grounds the pupils in our own culture
- greater tolerance for other cultures – the children's awareness and appreciation for Irish culture provides a foundation for the appreciation of other cultures.



“Not to learn Irish is to miss the opportunity of understanding what life in this country has meant and could mean in a better future. It is to cut oneself off from ways of being at home. If we regard self-understanding, mutual understanding, imaginative enhancement, cultural diversity and a tolerant political atmosphere as desirable attainments, we should remember that a knowledge of the Irish language is an essential element in their realisation.”

Séamus Heaney



Want to learn more about the
school?

Contact Conor on: 87749178

