



Gaelscoil Uí Riada  
Baile an Easpaig  
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Information Booklet

*'Mair go Mairir'*

A Thuismitheoirí,

Is ar mhaithe le sibh a chur ar an eolas mar gheall ar ár scoil a cuireadh an leabhrán seo le chéile. Tá sé mar sprioc againn Bunoidreachas Lánghaelach den scoth a chur ar fáil do bhur bpáistí. Tá súil againn go mbeidh an t-eolas sa leabhrán seo ina chabhair mhór daoibh chun tacú linn an aidhm seo a chur i gcrích.

*This booklet has been prepared to inform you about our school. We aim to provide your child with an excellent All-Irish Primary Education and hope that the information we have provided in this booklet will enable you to work with us to achieve this objective.*



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*Baile an Easpaig, Conaigh*

# Clár

## Welcome

1. Mission Statement
2. School timetable
3. Uniform
4. Calendar 2023-2024
5. School Curriculum
6. Booklists
7. Immersion Education
8. Policies
9. Parent-Teacher Meetings
10. Homework
11. Green Schools
12. Mobile Phones
13. Attendance
14. Cúl an Tí & Tír na nÓg
15. Extra-Curricular Activities
16. The Board of Management
17. Coiste Tacaíochta (Parents' Association)
18. Religion



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Concaigh*

# Fáilte

I am delighted to welcome you to Gaelscoil Uí Riada, Baile an Easpaig. Gaelscoil Uí Riada was founded in Wilton in 1984 and now, in 2022 we have 279 students and 15 teachers. We are all very proud of the school and I'm sure this will be evident in this booklet.



Gaelscoil Uí Riada was founded in 1984 to give parents the opportunity of an All-Irish Primary Education for their children so as to enable them to develop a unique understanding and appreciation of their own culture and language and to become bilingual. We in Gaelscoil Uí Riada are committed to providing each child in our care with a high quality education.

Gaelscoil Uí Riada offers your child an excellent education in a safe and vibrant environment where self-esteem and individual talent is nurtured and fostered within the richness and diversity of the Irish language.

The school's motto is "Live, that there may be Life" which, we believe, reflects the school's ethos of striving to provide an innovative, child-centered curriculum in a friendly, caring, tolerant and inclusive atmosphere.

Ba mhaith liom Céad Míle Fáilte a chur romhat teacht is bheith i do bhall de phobal Ghaelscoil Uí Riada.

*Breannán Ó Gréilligh, Príomhoide 2022*

## 1. Mission Statement

"Gaelscoil Uí Riada offers your child an excellent education in a safe and vibrant environment where self-esteem and individual talent is nurtured and fostered within the richness and diversity of the Irish language."



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## 2. School Timetable

Junior Infants & Senior Infants	<b>08:50 – 13:30</b> Sos: 10:30 – 10:40 Lón: 12:20 – 12:40
1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	<b>08:50 – 14:30</b> Sos: 11:05 – 11:15 Lón: 13:00 – 13:20

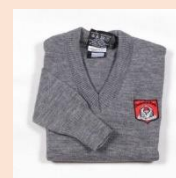


Children are welcomed into the school from 8.30am onwards.

Children in the infant classes go to their classrooms, while children from Rang 1 - Rang 6 go to the school hall. The school day commences at 8.50am. Punctual attendance is essential. All children are required to be in class at 8.50 a.m. It is important that the children are collected promptly at 2.30 p.m. (or 1.30 p.m.) as they are not covered by the school insurance after this time.

## 3. School uniform

Parents will be informed what days children should wear their school uniform and what days children should wear their school tracksuit.



**Childrens uniforms and tracksuits should all be labelled with the child's name.**

<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Tracksuit</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red and white striped shirt</li> <li>• Grey trousers / pinafore</li> <li>• Grey jumper / cardigan (with school crest embroidered)</li> <li>• Red tie</li> <li>• Black shoes</li> <li>• White socks or red/grey tights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy &amp; red quarter zip</li> <li>• Navy tracksuit pants</li> <li>• Grey polo shirt</li> <li>• Runners</li> <li>• Navy school shorts for fine weather</li> </ul>

<https://corkclothing.ie/product-category/club-shop/gaelscoil-ui-riada/>

<https://corkschoolorniforms.ie/product-category/primary-school/gaelscoil-ui-riada/>



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## 4. Calendar 2023-2024



- School Re-opens  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- Mid-term Break  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023
- Christmas Holidays  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at 12.00  
School re-opens Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Public Holiday  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- Mid-term Break  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- Public Holiday - St. Patrick's Day  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Easter Holidays  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at 12.00  
School re-opens Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- Mid-term Break  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- Public Holiday  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024
- Summer Holidays  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 12.00



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*Baile an Easpaig, Conaigh*

## 5. School Curriculum

- ✓ Irish
- ✓ English
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ History
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Visual Arts
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Speech & Drama
- ✓ P.E
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Social, Personal, Health Education
- ✓ ICT: Computer Skills



## 6. Schoolbooks

From September 2023, schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for children in recognised primary schools will be provided to every child free by their school. There is no charge to parents/guardians for this, as schools receive funding from Government to cover these costs. There may be a requirement for parents to buy some additional items for children to use at school. It is important that books are kept in good condition so they can be re-used. The schoolbooks and workbooks will be on loan to the children. They must be returned at the end of the school year, or if the child leaves the school. Please help make sure your child/children keep the school books safe and takes care of them, so they can be used again by another child.

All information on school booklists is available on the school website.

<https://www.gaelscoiluiriada.ie/bille-na-leabhar-2022-2023/>



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Conaigh*

## 7. Immersion Education

The school community's understanding of immersion education is a central element of the school's vision and philosophy



- The practice in the school is to immerse the children in Irish from the beginning to the end of the day except when English is being taught, with early immersion in effect in Junior Infants. That is to say that no English is taught in Junior Infants.
- Irish is the language of instruction and the language of communication between teachers and students.
- Complete fluency in English and Irish is achieved - the child acquires enough Irish to enhance their pre-literate skills as they take on English after November in Senior Infants.
- The majority of the pupils come from English speaking homes, and it is school policy to immerse them in Irish for that one year in order to develop their ability to think in the second language. Thus it is through Irish that the Junior Infant class learn both Pre-reading and Formal reading skills. However, once they have mastered the basic pre-reading skills they apply them to English reading spontaneously.
- From Senior Infants on, the teaching of formal English is strongly emphasised to ensure that all children attain a high standard in the language. It is our experience in Gaelscoil Uí Riada that this approach is very successful.
- More information on immersion education is available here:  
<https://gaeloideachas.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Bunscoil-BILINGUAL.pdf>

## 8. Policies

School policies are available on the school website:

<https://www.gaelscoiluiriada.ie/polaisi-na-scoile/>



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Bailé an Easpaig, Corcaigh*



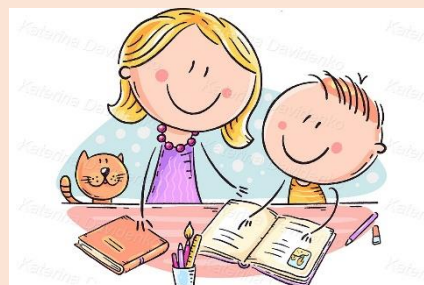
## 9. Parent-Teacher Meetings

- ✓ Parent-Teacher meetings are organised for Senior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class in November.
- ✓ Parent-Teacher meetings are organised for Junior Infants in February.
- ✓ Outside of these meetings parents are always welcome to discuss concerns about their child by arranging an appointment in advance with the principal or class teacher.



## 10. Obair Bhaile

The children are required to complete whatever homework they are given, to the best of their ability. Each child is responsible for doing his/her own homework. Should a child have difficulty with any particular aspect of the homework a note should be sent to the teacher. Nobody else should complete the homework. It is important that at least one parent be familiar with the type and amount of homework his/her child is required to do, and that this work is signed each day. Parents should also ensure that their child/children endeavour to maintain a high standard of penmanship in their written activities.



### Homework Guidelines:

- Junior Infants:

Parents are given an information leaflet outlining practical ways of helping children with their homework. Simple written exercises are given in the second term to reinforce work on numbers, letters, writing and word recognition. Emphasis is placed on informal work and oral work and this should be done in an enjoyable manner

- Senior Infants – around 15 mins
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - around 30 mins
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class- around 45 mins
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class – around 1 hour



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Corcaigh*

## 11. Green Schools

Every effort is made in Gaelscoil Uí Riada to look after the environment. We have been presented with a Green Flag for all our hard work in these areas:

- ✓ Recycling
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Biodiversity



We have also organised 'Bus na Rothar' on numerous occasions to encourage children and parents to cycle to school.

<https://www.gaelscoiluiriada.ie/an-brat-glas/>

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/people/arid-40875404.html>

12

## 12. Mobile Phones

Children sometimes have mobile phones, with their parents' permission. The phones will not be required during school hours. If it is necessary to call, it will be done from the office. Children should give the phone to the teacher at the start of the day and it will be stored in a safe place until the end of the day when it is returned. The phone is not allowed to be turned on until the child is outside the school gate.



## 13. Attendance

It is important that your child is at school every day, except in the case of illness or various other reasons that are explained.

All absences should be registered on 'Aladdin'.

Under the rules of the Education Welfare Act 2000, the school must contact the Education Welfare Officer if:

- a. children are regularly absent, and/or
- b. if the child is absent for 20 days a year



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Corcaigh*

## 14. Cúl an Tí & Tír na nÓg

We are very proud of the playground we have in Gaelscoil Uí Riada. 'Cúl an Tí' is a very special place where children can play together while speaking Irish.



Recently we opened 'Tír na nÓg'.

This is an outdoor library and the children love to take a book from the library and sit on the benches and enjoy reading.



## 15. Extra-Curricular Activities

### Sport:

#### Sciath na Scol



The children of the school get the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports - especially football, hurling, camogie and ladies football. Football started in 1986 and since then the school takes part in the outdoor and indoor Sciath na Scol competitions every year from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class.

#### Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all classes from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Class in Leisureworld in Bishopstown.

The classes usually have six lessons with two instructors.



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Corcaigh*

## Tennis

Conor Clarke – tennis trainer – comes to the school every week and leads tennis classes in the hall. Tennis teams from 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class take part in the Primary Schools Tennis Competition every year.



## Other Sporting Activities:

- ✓ Orienteering
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Athletics – City Sports



## Music

As our school is named in honor of the famous musician and composer Seán Ó Riada, there has been a strong musical tradition in the school from day one. Music is performed in all classes as part of the curriculum. All classes from Rang 1 onwards play the tin whistle.



A Traditional Music Band is organised in the school and they meet once a week to practice traditional Irish music. They play at major school events regularly. The school choir (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class) take part in a carol concert every Christmas in Wilton parish.

## Suzuki Violin

For over twenty years the Suzuki Violin program has been established in Gaelscoil Uí Riada with music teachers from Cork School of Music. Children from



Senior Infants onwards may choose this aspect of music and do it privately



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Corcaigh*

within school hours. They take part in a Suzuki Concert at the end of every year and also in a Christmas concert in December.

### Speech & Drama

Gaelscoil Uí Riada is heavily involved in drama activities. One drama class per week is organised with Shirley McCarthy, our speech and drama teacher. The school takes part in Feis Maitiú every year. The school puts on a musical on the stage every second year. In 2022 we did "Aille & the Bride" and in 2019 we did "The Lion King". Every child in the school is involved with Classes 5 & 6 taking the main parts.



## **16. Board of Management**

*The Patron of the school is the Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross.*

*The school is run by a Board of Management of eight:-*

- ✓ *Two members appointed by and representative of the Patron.*
- ✓ *Two parents (a mother and a father) of children in the school*
- ✓ *The Principal Teacher*
- ✓ *One other teacher from the school staff.*
- ✓ *Two extra members proposed by those nominees as described in (a) - (d) above.*



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Corcaigh*

## 17. Parents' Association



The Coiste Tacaíochta is a vital part of school life and the events organised by the Coiste add greatly to the spirit of the school. The activities and events organised are both social and fundraising, as these are the main aims of the Coiste Tacaíochta. We would urge all parents to make a special effort to support any of the Coiste activities as the funds raised benefit your child directly. With the threat of funding cuts in Education, the fundraising efforts of the Coiste will be more vital than ever and will need the support of all parents. School management has been working each year to upgrade and maintain the school to the highest standards – repainting, upgrading classroom furniture and of course ensuring that children have access to the most up to date I.T. facilities. These efforts will be made more difficult with the proposed cutbacks and the school may have to depend more on the parents and the Coiste.

These are some of the events organised by the committee:

- ✓ Bingo Night
- ✓ School Walk
- ✓ Easter Hampers
- ✓ Social night for new parents

They are also involved in:

- ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Night
- ✓ Information Night for new parents
- ✓ Christmas Fair
- ✓ Christmas Show
- ✓ Recycling of uniforms and tracksuits



Parents may volunteer to be on the Coiste Tacaíochta at the AGM and remain in the committee for two years. We are very grateful to all members of the coiste.



**Gaelscoil Uí Riada**

*Baile an Easpaig, Corcaigh*



## 18. Religion



- ✓ Gaelscoil Uí Riada is a Catholic, co-educational Gaelscoil, under the Patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross.
- ✓ We recognize the importance of developing the child's full potential and nurturing him/her in all aspects of his/her life in terms of personal, academic, social, spiritual, moral, physical and emotional development.
- ✓ The program "I nGrá Dé" is taught in all classes from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class.
- ✓ Classes regularly attend Mass in St. Joseph's SMA church in Wilton.
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Class is prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion.
- ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> Class are prepared for Confirmation - the Ceremony of Light is also organised with them.
- ✓ The school has a strong link with St. Joseph's SMA church, Wilton.
- ✓ Respect for different religious values and traditions in society will also be shown.



*'Mair go Mairir'*



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