



Naíscail & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir



School Prospectus 2026 - 2027



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GAELSCOIL ÉADAIN MHÓIR • 2023 - 2024

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Our current policy is to admit children to our Nursery class and Primary 1 class in the Autumn term following our admissions criteria as published on EA website.

All prospective new parents or parents may make an appointment to meet the Principal and to be shown around the school.

Applications for places available in September 2026 can be made from Wednesday 7 January 2026 @ 12 noon using the online portal or by paper form. Applications for Naíscoil close on Wednesday 21 January 2026 @ 12noon. More information on how to apply will be available by Wednesday 10 December 2026.



ENROLMENT AND ADMISSIONS NUMBERS 2026

Below is our current enrolment number in Naíscoil and Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir:

Enrolment, September 2025	182
Naíscoil Admissions, September 2025	29
Rang 1 Admissions, September 2025	22

The Department has determined the enrolment and admissions numbers as follows:

Enrolment, September 2026	182
Naíscoil Admissions, September 2026	26
Rang 1 Admissions, September 2026	26

AIDHMEANNA NA SCOILE/ OUR SCHOOL AIMS

We aim:

- To encourage all pupils to become Irish speakers who play an integral part in the Irish speaking community in Derry now and in the future.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to gain an awareness of, and to develop respect and understanding of other cultures.
- To ensure that all pupils reach their full potential through the implementation of a broad and enriched curriculum which fully utilises all available resources.
- To provide all pupils with the tools to become confident global citizens.
- To create a safe, inclusive and encouraging learning environment where pupils, staff and parents feel valued and empowered and where talents and achievements are celebrated.
- To provide continuous professional development opportunities for all staff.



Ár Ráiteas Misin / Our Mission Statement

Cothú, Cultúr, Cúram, Ceiliúradh (Nurture, Culture, Care, Celebration)

Ár bhFís Scoile / Our School vision

Sar-oidreachas i gcoilár an phobail
(High quality education at the heart of the community)

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA: NAÍScoil ÉADAIN MHÓIR

Naíscoil Éadain Mhóir is an Irish-Medium nursery unit situated in an enclosed site on the grounds of Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir between the Brandywell area and the Bogside area of Derry City.

Naíscoil Éadain Mhóir caters for up to 26 boys and girls on a full-time basis in a modern purpose-built nursery building consisting of a large play area, a quiet room, toilet facilities which cater for disabilities, internal store, external store, utility room and a covered play area. The Nursery Unit day runs from **9.00am until 1.30pm**. School meals are served as part of the pre-school day.

A fully qualified teacher and nursery assistants strive to ensure that the children are enabled to fulfil their potential in an environment which encourages all children to develop physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. We provide high quality early years education through the medium of Irish.

It is anticipated that all children who attend Naíscoil Éadain Mhóir will continue their education in Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir. The School Principal is available to answer any queries regarding the application procedure and to facilitate visits to the Nursery Unit.

From time to time, we will have students on placement and volunteers working in Naíscoil Éadain Mhóir. All will be vetted by Western Health and Social Care Trust.

SETTLING IN TO SCHOOL - NAÍScoil

It is in the best interest of each child in Naíscoil & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir to ensure that all children feel safe and happy when they are attending school.

This policy was written to ensure that the transition to Naíscoil is a smooth and a natural progression in the child's education, so that all children feel comfortable and that they settle into their new surroundings easily.

This is achieved in the following ways:

- The Naíscoil children will visit the Naíscoil informally throughout their pre-preschool year. They will be invited to events at A times of the year eg Halloween and Christmas.
- Parents will be invited to attend an information evening at the end of May / beginning of June.
- The children will visit the Naíscoil formally to attend stay and play sessions once their place has been allocated during the month of June.
- Families will be invited on a family day trip in June.
- The children will receive a welcome pack with pictures of the staff and their new classroom.
- This can be used at home to encourage familiarity with the setting.
- The children will attend stay and play sessions during the last week of August.
- The children will start Naíscoil during the month of September.

SETTLING IN TO SCHOOL - RANG 1

It is in the best interest of each child in Naíscoil & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir to ensure that all children feel safe and happy when they are attending school.

This policy was written to ensure that the transition from the Naíscoil to the Gaelscoil is a smooth and a natural progression in the child's education, so that all children feel comfortable and that they settle into their new surroundings easily.

This is achieved in the following ways:

- The Rang 1 teacher will be in constant contact with the Naíscoil and she will visit the children in the Naíscoil, at least once every fortnight.
- The children in the Naíscoil will visit the Gaelscoil to see their new classroom and new surroundings regularly. Parents will collect their children from Rang 1 in the third term.
- Children from Naíscoil will eat their dinner in the school hall one day per week in the third term.
- Naíscoil & Rang 1 children will participate in dramas and parties together.
- The Rang 1 teacher will meet with the Naíscoil teacher to discuss the children's progression.
- Children from all Naíscoileanna will attend a settling in summer scheme during August.
- The teacher will keep the parents/guardians informed about their child's progress on a daily basis at drop off and pick up time.

CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ATTEND NAÍSCOIL ÉADAIN MHÓIR

- Parents will be invited to attend an information session in the summer term.
- Children will be invited to a Teddy Bear's Picnic in the summer term.
- The class teacher will meet with the parents to discuss the child.
- The class teacher will liaise with the Naíscóil / Nursery teacher to discuss the child's progress.
- The child will visit the Gaelscoil on a number of occasions.
- Basic words will be sent home with the child so that the child can develop his/her Irish at a quicker pace.
- The teacher will keep the parents/guardians informed about their child's progress.
- The class teacher will meet with parents again in the Autumn term.
- Irish is spoken from the child's first day in school, although the classroom assistant may use a few words in English, to help those children who did not attend the Naíscóil settle in. All staff always ensure that all children are safe and happy in school.

SCHOOL STAFFING

Principal	Mary Nic Ailín
Nursery	Deirdre Ní Chraiftigh-Bailie
P1	Nicole Rabbett
P2	Saoirse Ní Dhubhagáin
P3	Mairéad Mhic Daibhéid
P4	Patricia Mhic Thorcaill
P5	Seán Mc Kenna
P6	Móira Armstrong
	Ann Ó Donghaile
P7	Alicia Uí Chatháin
SENCO:	Nicole Rabbett
Resource Teacher:	Órlaith Ní Niallais
Secretary	Eimear Nic Liam
Care Taker	Paddy Mac Conaill
Auxiliary Staff	Eddie Mac Cuarta
	Anne Marie Mhic Cuarta
	Eamonn Ó Cearrúláin
Classroom Assistants	Sinead Nic Lochlainn
	Caoimhe Uí Dhuibhne
	Cliona Ní Dhufáigh
	Lorna Ní Cheallaigh
	Orlagh Ní Earcáin
	Molláí de Brún
	Annie Nic an Bhaird
	Sarah Kyle
	Sarah Ní Bheirne
	Rebecca de Brún
	Toni de Brún
	Daire Ó hUdáin
	Noirín Ní Mhianáin
	Katie Ní Chinneide
	Chloe Ní Dhubhghaill
	Chloe Ní Dhoinn
	Eamonn Ó Cearrúláin
	Erin Ní Chúipéir
Canteen Assistants	Margaret Elliot



ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Class Times

Naíscóil:.....	9.00 am – 1.30 pm
Primary 1:	9.00 am – 2.15 pm
Primary 2:	9.00 am – 2.15 pm
Primary 3:	9.00 am – 2.30 pm
Primary 4 & 5:.....	9.00 am – 2.50 pm
Primary 6 & 7:.....	9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Break Time

Rang 1 - 3 & 7:	10.30 am - 10.45 am
Rang 4 - 6:.....	10.45 am - 11.00 am

The children have a supervised break during the morning session. This allows for toilet arrangements and relaxation from work in the playground or classroom. If you wish your child to have a snack you are requested not to provide more than one item; a piece of fruit and a drink of milk or water is advised.

Lunch Time

Rang 1 – 3:.....	12.00 noon - 12.40 pm
Rang 4 – 7:.....	12.30 pm – 1.10 pm

Meals are served in Naíscóil every day.
Rang 1 – 7: Meals are served in the school hall every school day. Parents of new pupils may enquire about free school meals from the Education Authority Western Region: Omagh 028 82 411 411.

Every child is expected to be able to use a knife and a fork independently.

GENERAL ADVICE

- Children's names should be written clearly on the children's school uniforms. Many jumpers are left in the school during the year.
- All children with long hair should ensure that their hair is tied up for health and safety reasons.
- Parents / guardians are encouraged to keep close contact with the class teacher and the Principal about children's progress in school.
- Children should wear running shoes, t-shirt and track bottoms during P.E. lessons.
- Children should practise good manners at all times, adopt a kindly and thoughtful attitude to one another, show respect for teachers, classroom assistants, the secretary, the caretaker and those who supervise at lunch times.
- Children should not come to school before 8.30am unless children are travelling to school on the school bus or attending the breakfast club.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



The nursery school uniform consists of a red jersey, yellow t-shirts, navy trousers or skirt and black shoes.



The school uniform consists of a navy jumper with the school name and logo and a yellow t-shirt, navy trousers or skirt and black shoes.



SCHOOL GUIDELINES

We wish to ensure that our school is a happy, safe and healthy place in which everyone will have a fair chance to work and learn. To make sure that our wish is fulfilled, parents/guardians are expected to ensure their children will comply with their agreed class charter.

The class charter will be discussed and agreed in each class during first week of term. The class charter will be shared with all parents / guardians.

The class charter can be changed / adapted at any stage, if needed, in agreement with pupils and parents.

CURRICULUM

The pupils of the school are taught the subjects of the Statutory Curriculum used by all schools. Teachers develop clear schemes of work and plans, which help to enrich the children's learning. The Curriculum is enriched and renewed by the continuing development of the skills and expertise of the teachers so that an excellent education is provided for all children in our school.

A formal meeting is arranged during term time to give the parents the opportunity to learn about pupils' progress and to discuss with teachers how to best enhance this. Throughout the school year, the principal and teachers are available to meet parents at mutually convenient times to discuss any concerns that they may have in relation to their child's progress. Information sessions may be arranged from time to time so that parents can be kept up to date on educational issues.

The provision of sport is included within the curriculum for Physical Education.

RELIGION

Naíscóil & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir is a multi-denominational school, which welcomes all religious beliefs. We work closely with parents/guardians to ensure that children are fully prepared for the sacraments if you choose for your child to participate.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The children take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities so that they can enjoy their school life. Children's needs and interests are catered for throughout their school life in Naíscóil & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir.

The following list gives a flavour of activities which are available, some of which are provided by community groups that support and compliment the work of the school:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| ■ Sports' Day | ■ Band |
| ■ Bodhrán | ■ Tap and Clap (Music) |
| ■ Drama Festivals | ■ Art |
| ■ Feiseanna | ■ Homework Support Every Morning / After school |
| ■ Library Visits | ■ Tin Whistle |
| ■ Creative Writing | ■ Gaelic Football |
| ■ Quizzes | ■ Swimming |
| ■ School Outings | ■ Breakfast Club Every Morning |

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Naíscóil & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir recognises that some pupils require special help and guidance, and the staff seek to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) receive the help and guidance necessary to meet their needs. The staff is sensitive to the educational welfare of these pupils and teachers make every effort to assess and address their needs and to ensure they have a full and broad curriculum alongside their peers.

If a teacher is worried about any aspect of a child's work, they firstly inform the school's SENCO. A Note of Concern is filled where the child's requirements are described. If necessary, the child will be put on the SEN register, after a meeting with parents / guardians.

There are currently three steps in the SEN Code of Practice:

- It is recognised that the child has an additional requirement. The class teacher ensures that differentiation takes place in class work. The teacher meets with parent and monitors the child's progress for an agreed period of time.
- At stage 1, the class teacher writes an IEP for each child on the SEN register.
- It is recognised that the child needs support from outside agencies and contact is made with the appropriate one.
- If it is thought that a statement of special educational needs is required for the child, a psychologist from the Education Authority will assess the child.
- The child will be given a statement of Special Educational Needs in which the appropriate school is named. This statement will be reviewed annually. In steps 2-3, the class teacher writes an PLP for each child on the SEN register. This will state specific aims for the child to achieve. These aims are discussed with the child and with the parents/guardians so that they can support the child at home. The school staff recognises the importance of children reaching their full potential, each child is made to feel valued and safe. Praise and encouragement is used to raise all children's self-esteem. Children are encouraged, as far as possible, to be self-disciplined, self-motivated and independent. Teachers in our school strive to develop positive working relationships with parents/guardians and with outside agencies, indeed Naíscóil & Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir works closely with the Psychology service to ensure that each child benefits from the best educational opportunity.

PASTORAL CARE

The life of the child in Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir involves much more than academic considerations. It is recognised that the school has a role to play in the pastoral care of the pupil. Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir is deeply committed to the pastoral care of its pupils and each teacher is involved in this work on a daily basis.

All staff will be kept informed about Pastoral Care and Child Protection matters. In addition, staff members ensure that links are maintained with parents / guardians and outside agencies.

Alicia Uí Chathain is the designated Child Protection Teacher and has responsibility for Pastoral Care in the school. Deirdre Ní Chraiftigh is deputy designated teacher. Nicole Ní Cléirigh is the designated teacher for Child Protection in the Naíscoil.

It is important that parents who have a concern about their child(ren) follow the school complaints policy which is briefly outlined below:

STEP 1: Speak to the class teacher

STEP 2: Speak to the Principal

STEP 3: Write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

ROAD SAFETY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SCHOOL

Parents / guardians who bring children to school in vehicles are asked to observe the following advice in the interests of health and safety of all.

Be mindful of the safety of other drivers / road users.

Cars must be parked outside the school in the appropriate areas.

Do not park in an illegal manner as this inhibits other road users and increases the risk of accidents.

Do not park anywhere that would increase the possibility of an accident.

CHILDREN LEAVING THE SCHOOL BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY

As children sometimes have to leave before their normal going-home time you are asked to adhere to the following procedure to ensure their safety and to avoid misunderstandings.

If someone other than a parent / guardian is collecting your child ensure that the school knows the person's name in advance.

Children should be collected from inside the school gates except when a clear alternative plan is stated.

The teacher and the office should be informed by note, by phone or by personal contact of the time and reason for the request of early dismissal.

If necessary, special arrangements may be made with the Principal.



INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

A number of documents pertaining to school policies are available from our school website or upon request from School Office.

THE ATTENDANCE RATE

One object of our School Development Plan last year was to raise the attendance rate. We succeeded in doing this by an awards system. This will continue during this school year.

CHANGES IN SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Changes occur from time to time in the staffing and organisation of the school and parents will be informed of these. The summaries in this booklet give the present arrangements with effect from September 2026.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chair:

Eamon Ó Earcáin (EA)

Department of Education Representative:

Grace Uí Niallais

Trustee Representatives:

Catherine Pollock

Deaglán Ó Mocháin

Carol Nic Conamara

Gerry Mac Lochlainn

Parent Representative: Ruairi Darrall

Teacher Representative: TBA

Secretary: Mary Nic Ailín





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Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir

