



Fáilte go Naíscoil agus
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche





Ráiteas Misin Mission Statement

We at Naíscoil agus Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche are dedicated to creating a caring and secure school community in which every member values the importance of speaking Irish, and in which children, parents and staff feel valued, supported and happy. We strive to provide an ethos in which openness, honesty and bilingualism permeate through all aspects of our school and the wider community.



Foireann na Scoile School Staff



Príomhoide/Principal -
Aingeal Nic an
tSábhaisigh



Rúnaí na scoile/School
Secretary - Mary
Gallagher



Foireann na Scoile

School Staff



Múinteoir Rang 1
/ P1 Teacher -
Máire Boden



Cúntóir
Ranga/Classroom
Assistant - Martina
Lenaghan



Cúntóir
Ranga/Classroom
Assistant - Louise
Dornan



Covid 19 and induction

Usually, we would phase your child in to Rang 1 gradually throughout September, however due to the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions and in order to stick with social distancing guidelines, please note that we are awaiting guidance from the Department of Education as to how this will be implemented in schools.

As we are updated, we will keep you informed as to how this will happen. Please note that it will most likely be the third week of September before your child starts Rang 1. We propose to start the pupils back initially in their familiar Naíscoil setting for the first two weeks from 9am - 12 noon, beginning September 1st. Whether this takes the form of 2 days per week or half days, we are unsure at present and await further direction from the Department of Education. Please continue to check our calendar on the school website www.bunscoilbb.com for the most up-to-date information we have, as well as our holiday and proposed closures list for the year.



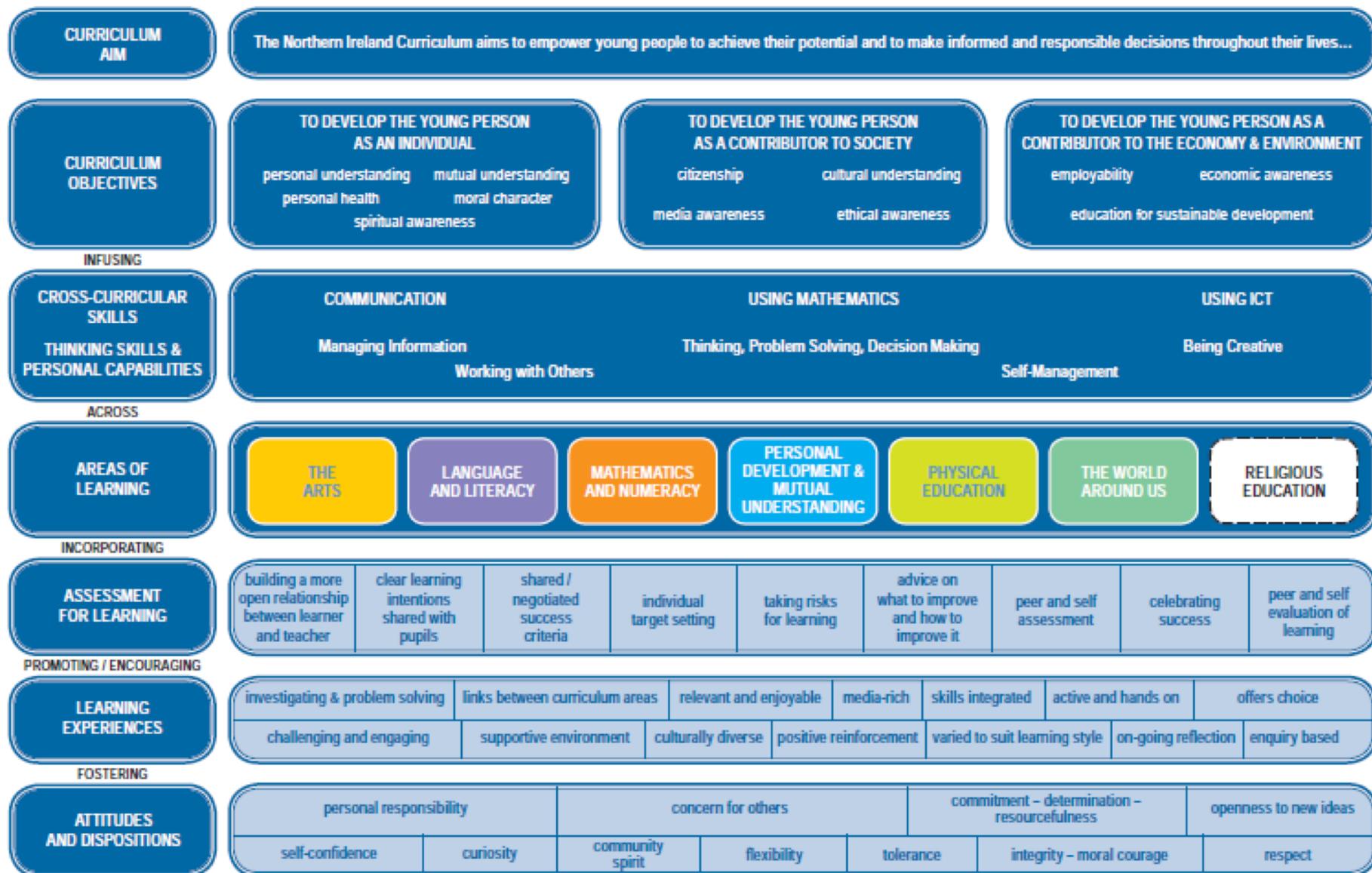
Curaclam Curriculum

There are three key stages in Primary School:

- Foundation Stage (Rang 1 and 2)
- Key Stage 1 (Rang 3 and 4)
- Key Stage 2 (Rang 5, 6 and 7)

We follow the same Northern Ireland Curriculum as any other primary school in NI: Literacy, Numeracy, The World Around Us, The Arts (Art & Design, Music and Drama), P.E., Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), Religious Education and ICT.

The "Big Picture" of the Curriculum at Key Stages 1 & 2





Curaclam (ar lean...) Curriculum (continued...)

A significant proportion of the curriculum in Rang 1 is delivered through play-based learning. Children learn to problem solve, take turns, share, explain their methods and extend their vocabulary and communication skills through language rich, adult supervised/led play experiences. We cover real-life topics such as 'The Post Office', 'At The Vet' and 'Hot and Cold', as well as covering seasons, festivals and celebrations throughout the world.

We are very well resourced with ICT equipment, with an average of 2 PCs, 1 laptop and an interactive whiteboard in each classroom, and a set of iPads which are timetabled and shared throughout the school. We were awarded 'Digital-School' status in June 2017, in recognition of our dedication to integrating ICT throughout our curriculum, and came first place in the Primary School section of the Northern Ireland C2K ICT Excellence Awards in June 2019.

We are in inter-denominational school, and we follow 'Living Learning Together', a pastoral care programme which encourages personal development and mutual understanding of the world and the wider community. We also prepare children for the Catholic sacraments if their parents so wish, following the Veritas 'Beo Go Deo' Catholic Education Series.



Litearthacht Literacy



The biggest question parents have about our curriculum is the teaching of Language and Literacy.

- In Rang 1 we teach the same language concepts and literacy skills as is taught in any other Primary 1 classroom in Northern Ireland, ie Talking & Listening Skills, Beginning Sounds, Rhyme, Syllables and Blending, we just happen to use Irish words as samples, rather than English, such as 'madadh' or 'muc' instead of 'mouse' or 'monkey' or 'lón' rhymes with 'rón' etc...
- We teach phonics, looking at a sound a week, and we send home weekly keywords to help pupils with emergent reading
- We teach reading skills, such as turning pages, reading from left to right, and using pictorial clues to help tell the story
- We teach writing skills, starting off with individual letters/sounds, building up to words and their own names, and progressing to sentence level towards the end of the year
- Pupils are taught English lessons from Rang 3 onwards, but have the foundation literacy skills from Rang 1 and 2 already, and so aren't starting 'from scratch' at all.



Measúnú Assessment

Another key question parents often ask is 'how will my child be assessed?'

- Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche assesses pupils in the same ways as pupils are assessed in any other primary school in Northern Ireland - Irish or English medium.
- In accordance to the NI Curriculum, in Years 1 - 7, teachers must assess your child's learning.
- In Rang 1 & 2, this predominantly takes the form of ongoing individual classroom observations. In Rang 1 & 2, rather than sitting end of year tests, pupils are assessed on a 6 - weekly basis on their key literacy and numeracy skills/targets, albeit in a very informal style, such as structured games and 1:1 activities.
- In Rang 3 - 7, pupils undergo standardised tests in the summer term in English, Irish and Maths, which give a more formal indication of progress. These scores are then analysed by the teachers, and used to plan the future teaching and learning of our pupils.
- Every year, 1:1 parent-teacher meetings are held to help to update you on your child's progress and to suggest areas to help support your child in the home environment.
- At the end of each school year, you will receive a written report from your child's teacher. This will describe your child's progress in every aspect of the curriculum.

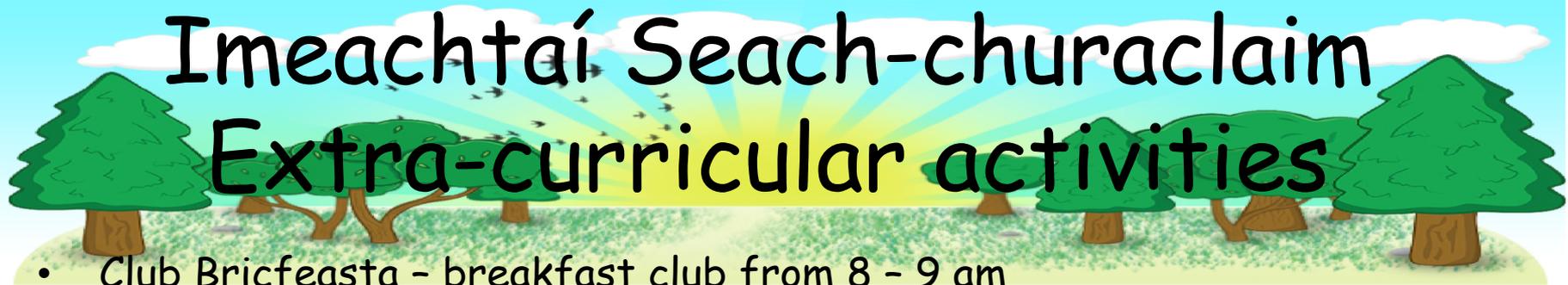


Spóirt Sports

At Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, pupils experience a wide range of sporting activities.

- Structured weekly PE lessons are taught, in which teachers follow a movement and athletics scheme which ensures continuity and progression of core skills and competences.
- Weekly sports after-school club available
- Key Stage 2 pupils play Gaelic football, hurling and soccer for the school in local inter-school competitions.
- Key Stage 2 pupils travel to Down Leisure Centre in Downpatrick every spring term for swimming lessons.
- Key Stage 2 pupils participate in the Cycling Proficiency Programme.





Imeachtaí Seach-churaclaim Extra-curricular activities

- Club Bricfeasta - breakfast club from 8 - 9 am
- Afterschool Homework Club 2-4pm (2 - 3pm Rang 1 - 3, 3 - 4pm Rang 4 - 7) daily.
- School Council
- Eco-School committee
- Summer Scheme - having fun and speaking Irish in July
- Regular school trips, walks and outings
- Forest school activities in Bunkers Hill
- Inter-school sports and quiz competitions
- Scoil drámaíocht competitions
- Poetry and conversation Féiseanna

Breakfast and After-School Club arrangements/provisions for September 2020 are yet to be confirmed by the Department of Education, therefore we are unable to confirm whether we will be able to provide these services at present



An Lá Scoile

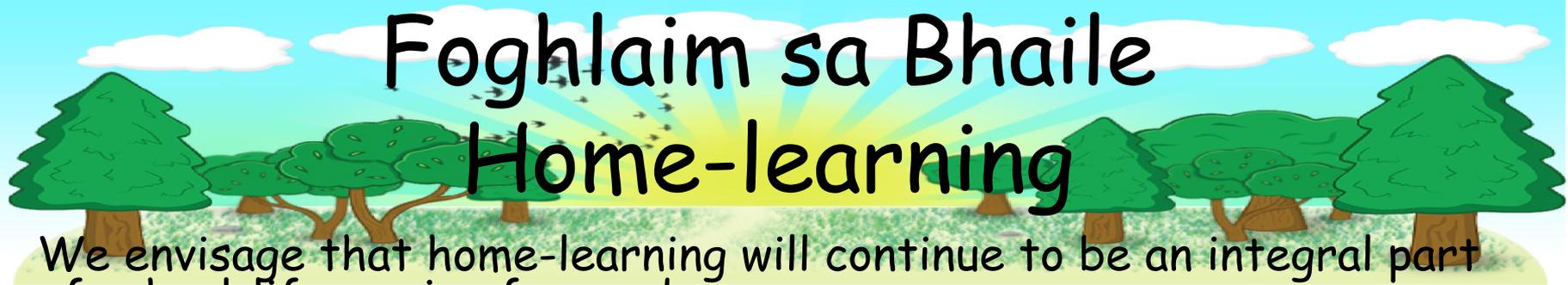
The School Day

- Class begins at 9 am. Children are supervised in the clós (playground) from 8.45am, and parents can avail of our 'Club Bricfeasta' which is available each morning from 8 - 8.45 am.
- Breaktime is from 10.30-11.00am.
- Lunchtime is from 12.15-1.00pm.

- At Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, we pride ourselves in our healthy eating policy. Our school dinners come from St.Malachy's Primary School in Castlewellan and are of a high standard. It is recommended that pupils eat fruit, a yogurt or a small sandwich at breaktime. Water is always available, and school milk can be ordered termly. We discourage sugary/fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolates and sweets. We do not have any children with a nut allergy at present but we discourage bringing nuts to school.

- Rang 1 and Rang 2 go home at 2.00pm.
- Rang 4 - 7 go home at 3.00pm.
- Rang 3 go home at 2.00pm until Christmas, after which Rang 3 go home at 3.00pm.
- Our after-school club runs from 2 - 4pm daily.
- Please fill in usual people who will collect your child on our data collection form, and inform us of any changes in circumstances or if someone different will be collecting your child.

Due to Covid 19, our school day will be different; this is to give you an idea of what a typical school day in Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche looks like, and what we will hopefully be able to return to before long.



Foghlaim sa Bhaile Home-learning

We envisage that home-learning will continue to be an integral part of school-life moving forward.

We use a combination of Google Classroom, Collaborate Ultra and our school website www.bunscoilbb.com to post regular notices, activities and recommendations, and to video conference with our pupils.

We strongly urge all households to download Google Classroom, as the class teachers are able to communicate more regularly using this app, as well as provide individual, personal feedback to pupil on their work/activities.

In September, we will provide further information such as log-in details and passwords to ensure your child can stay up-to-date with class notices.

In addition, we highly recommend parents join the private Cairde BBB group on Facebook for regular posts and suggestions regarding home-learning and Irish-language events and activities going on.



Éadaí Scoile School Uniform

Our uniform consists of:

- Navy sweatshirt embroidered with the school logo and motto (available from O'Hare's Clothes Shop in Castlewellan, Co. Down);
- Grey trousers, skirt or shorts;
- Green polo shirt embroidered with the school logo and motto;
- Navy school coat (optional);
- Black shoes (slip on/velcro ideally);
- Navy or green gingham dresses in the summer time;

P.E. uniform consists of:

- Grey/ navy track bottoms, or grey/navy shorts;
- Suitable trainers
- Green polo shirt embroidered with the school logo and motto
- We have a school jersey which is **OPTIONAL**, order forms will be given out in September.
- Rang 1 pupils are strongly recommended to wear **velcro trainers** for PE to enable them to change as independently as possible

We understand that shops are not open to buy uniforms at present and in the interest of good hygiene practice, uniform is not required for starting Rang 1 this year. This will allow for children to wear newly cleaned clothes each day.



In addition to relaxing our school uniform policy in light of Covid 19, we also ask that pupils come to school daily in/with:

- comfortable shoes/trainers, as we aim to conduct lessons outside/go on walks etc as much as possible
- when wet, welly boots
- a suitable waterproof coat, again, to allow us to be outdoors as much as possible. In Rang 1, coats with zips are preferable, as we need pupils to be able to put on and take off their own coats.
- a full change of clothes every day (which can be kept on their coat hanger in the cloakroom) in the case of a toileting accident or a fall in a puddle etc...

Geansaí Peile School Jersey



Our school jersey is not compulsory. Children can wear it for PE in school, and may also wear it to school on other sporting occasions, such as Sports Day. The jersey costs £22.50, and order forms will be available in September.



Cúrsaí Airgid

Transport, Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance

For those parents that wish to apply for home to school transport assistance, the Education Authority (previously known as the Education and Library Board) has introduced a new, online process for parents applying for home to school transport support.

Further information on eligibility for transport assistance and how to apply can be found on the Education Authority website following the link www.eani.org.uk/transport.

If you think you could be eligible for free school meals or school uniform allowance, further information and downloadable forms can be found at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance>.



Tuismitheoirí Parents

Our caring, family ethos at Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche means that we strongly value the importance of parental input in their child's education, and we enjoy a wonderful level of parental participation and involvement in our school community here at Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche.

We strive to involve parents in the life of the school. Parents help with breakfast club, after-school activities and assist on school trips and events. Parents are employed in the school as lunchtime supervisors and classroom assistants. Parents are also involved in school fundraising, and we have a very active and vibrant Parents' Support Group who regularly organise fundraising events and activities to help subsidise school trips and equipment.

We believe that happy children are more effective learners. Parents are always encouraged to discuss any concerns they may have either with the class teacher or with the principal. Our door is always open, and we pride ourselves here at Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche in our open and friendly relationships between teachers and parents.

In light of Covid 19 though, if parents wish to speak to their child's teacher, they will have to do so by ringing the school office to arrange a telephone appointment.



We have a very active and dedicated Parent Support Group called 'Cairde' who regularly arrange activities such as fundraiser events and family fun days.

Their fundraising goes towards subsidising buses for school trips to reduce the cost for parents, purchasing class iPads, class reading books, developing our outdoor play area etc.

They are an integral part of Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche and are always keen for new members to join in and help in whatever small way they can. Please join the private Facebook group, as well as keeping an eye on our school website for information and regular updates.



Ag cuidiú le do pháiste Supporting your child

As previously emphasised, whilst having Irish in the home is not a prerequisite to attend Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, parents are strongly encouraged to avail of the many great Irish Language classes and day-courses that are available in the area in order to be able to support their child's learning.

In addition, homework's are always supplemented with support materials for parents to use to help with pronunciation and meaning.

There are some fantastic websites to assist parents with Irish and support their child, such as:

- www.abair.ie
- www.tearma.ie
- www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/irish/blas
- www.irishforparents.ie and many more...

Remember, homework is a REVISION of work/topics covered in class, so pupils will be able to tell YOU what they are meant to do, and will take great joy in doing so!

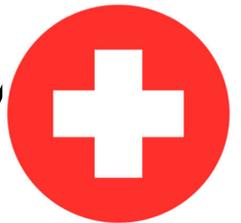


Please inform staff of any health and medical needs your child has including any food allergies, asthma etc

If your child becomes ill while in school, we will contact the number you have provided on your data collection form. Please make sure this is always up to date - inform us of any changes throughout the year.

Please be aware that staff cannot administer medicine. If your child needs medication, feel free to come to the school to give it when needed.

Please inform Máire or Aingeal of anything that may affect your child's behaviour such as bereavement, sudden shock, separation, etc. All information will be treated as strictly confidential.





Sláinte do pháiste

Your child's health and hygiene

If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they have fully recovered to help prevent the spread of infection. NHS guidance on incubation periods for illnesses is available online via the following link:

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

If you are in any doubt, please also just contact the school office for clarification.





Aip Scoile School App

As we are an award winning Eco School, we aim to use as little paper as possible. Therefore, we send out important messages and information via our school app.

Parents are asked to download it prior to their child beginning Rang 1. Please ensure that notifications are enabled and that you check the app regularly. We also ask parents to visit our website to keep up to date with what is happening in our school.

Our app is available on both Android and Apple devices. Simply visit our school website where you will be prompted to download the app for free.

www.bunscoilbb.com





- Putting on own shoes, jumper, coat
- Velcro shoes
- All clothes labelled
- How to use schoolbags, lunchboxes, tupperware etc...
- Colouring in & scissor skills
- Reading with your child
- Recognise own name in writing/print
- Don't practice letter/name-writing yet! This often leads to wrong letter formation habits which can be extremely difficult to undo.



- Included in your information pack is a summary document of our Child Protection Policy.
- All of our other school policies are available to view on the school website www.bunscoilbb.com or from the school office by appointment with the principal



Please return data collection and permission forms, which have been emailed out to you, by email to info@bunscoilbb.com by Friday 19th June at the latest.

Go raibh maith agaibh.



We are really looking forward to meeting you all as your children start their journey in Rang 1. We understand that this is an exciting time for you and your child. However, we also understand that the current climate in which we are living has caused much confusion and anxiety about how school will look next year. Please be assured that we take the health and safety of all our pupils, staff and wider school community seriously and will be following guidelines to ensure the safety of all in our school. We will keep you updated as to starting dates and timetables as soon as we are given this information.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email the school office on info@bunscoilbb.com or you can directly email Máire on mboden273@c2kni.net or Gráinne on gflanagan750@c2kni.net, or by calling the school on 028 437 71356.



Mol An Óige

**BUNSCOIL
BHEANNA
BOIRCHE**