





# 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



Múinteoir Rang 1  
/ P1 Teacher -  
Máire Boden



Príomóide na Scoile  
- School Principal  
Ciarán Mac an  
tSionnaigh



Cúntóir Ranga/Classroom  
Assistant - Martina  
Lenaghan



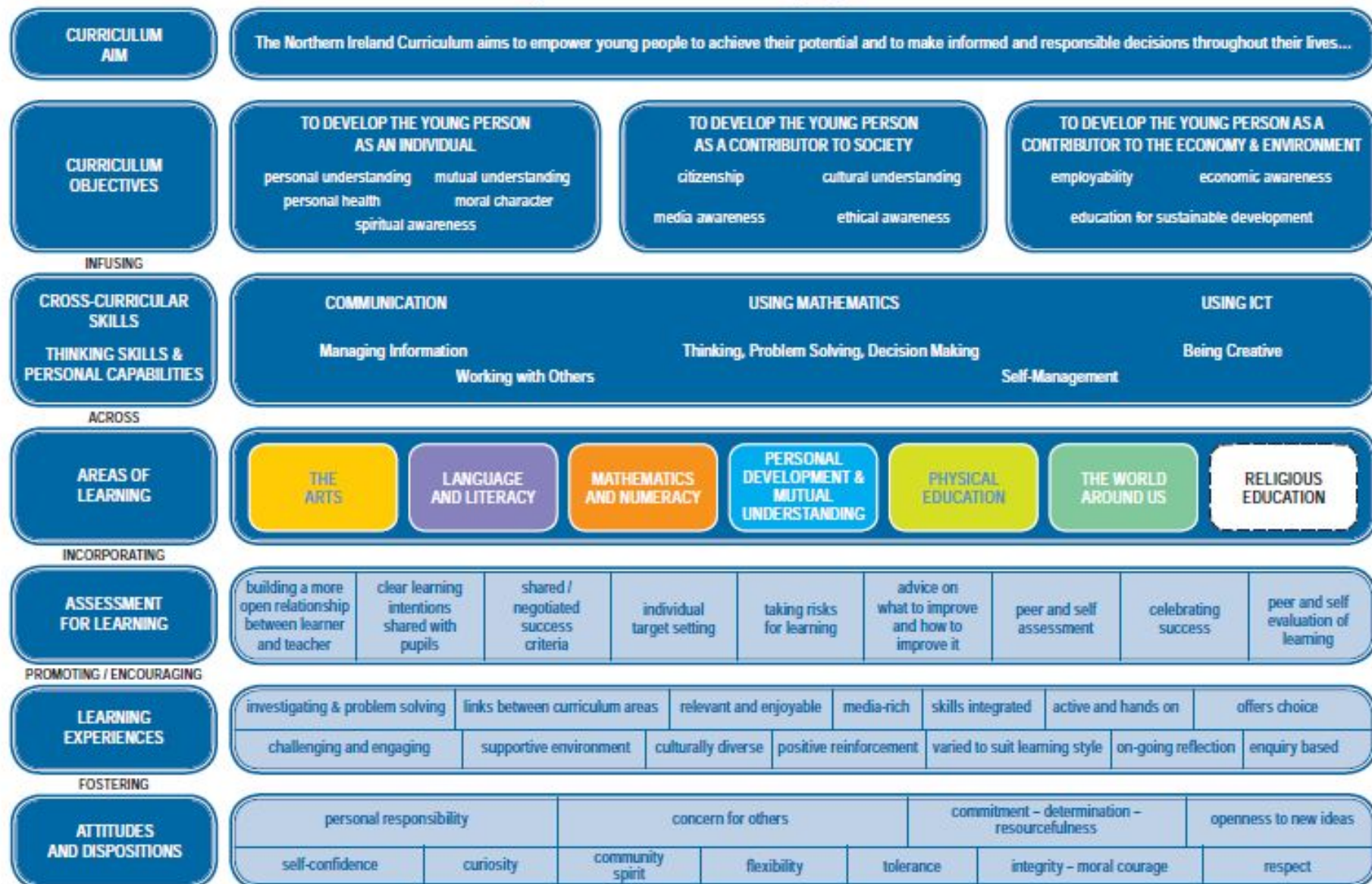


There are three key stages in Primary School:

- 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





# Curacclam (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 'The Florist', 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, an interactive board and a set of iPads in each classroom, as well as Beebots, Probots and Sphero devices for coding. 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', rather than 'door' rhymes with 'floor' etc...
- We still teach phonics, looking at a new beginning sound a week, and we send home weekly high frequency keywords to help pupils with emergent reading
- We also teach reading skills, just like our English-medium counterparts, such reading from left to right, and using beginning sounds, context and 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.





**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 around February time to update you on your child's progress and to suggest areas to help support your child at home.
- 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.

- Weekly PE lessons are taught, in which teachers follow a movement and athletics scheme which ensures continuity and progression of core skills and competences.
- 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.









- Club Bricfeasta - breakfast club from 8 - 8.45 am
- Afterschool Homework Club 2-4pm (2 - 3pm Rang 1 - 3, 3 - 4pm Rang 4 - 7) daily - it is recommended that Rang 1 don't avail of these services until they have completed the induction process and have fully settled in - further information will be provided at the beginning of term 1
- 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





- 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 12.00 - 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 a menu is put on our school website every term. 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.



# Éadaí Scoile School Uniform

## Our uniform consists of:

- Navy sweatshirt embroidered with the school logo and motto (available from John McKenny'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 warmer weather;

## 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, quarter zip and tracksuit bottoms which are **OPTIONAL**, and can be ordered from the O'Neills website
- Rang 1 pupils are strongly recommended to wear **velcro trainers** for PE to enable them to change as independently as possible





Please ensure that your child comes to school in a suitable waterproof coat, 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 independently.

We also ask that you pack a change of underwear, socks and trousers/tracksuit bottoms in your child's school bag daily (or it can be kept on their coat hanger in the cloakroom) in the case of a toileting accident or a fall in a puddle etc...



# 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/financial-help/home-to-school-transport/how-to-apply-for-transport-assistance-for-my-child](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport/how-to-apply-for-transport-assistance-for-my-child)

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-uniform-grants>





# 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 throughout 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 now operate an opt-out system for Cairde, and your phone number will automatically be added to the contact list to receive messages and information regarding Cairde.

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. If parents wish to speak to their child's teacher, please do so by ringing the school office to arrange an telephone appointment, to ensure privacy and to allow teachers to give you their full attention.



# 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 Schools NI app.

Parents are asked to download it prior to their child beginning náiscoil. Please ensure that notifications are enabled and that you check the app regularly, and select Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche as your default school, to ensure that you receive all whole-school general messages.

Our app is available on both Android and Apple devices. Simply visit our school website [www.bunscoilbb.com](http://www.bunscoilbb.com) where you will be prompted to download the app for free.

We also ask parents to visit our website regularly to access school holiday lists, latest photos, and to keep up to date with what is happening in our school.



# Foghlaim sa Bhaile Home-learning

We use Google Classroom at BBB to deliver and mark homework and communicate with parents.




At the beginning of Rang 1, all parents/guardians are asked to download the Google Classroom app, as the class teachers set homework, post messages and communicate at a class level this way, as well as providing 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 you/your child can stay up-to-date with class notices and assignments.

In addition, we highly recommend parents follow Cairde Naíscoil agus Bhunscoil Bheanna Boirche on Facebook for regular posts and suggestions regarding home-learning and Irish-language events and activities going on.





# Ag cuidiú le do pháiste Supporting your child

As previously mentioned, 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 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.

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!

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

[www.abair.ie](http://www.abair.ie)      [www.tearma.ie](http://www.tearma.ie)      [www.foclóir.ie](http://www.foclóir.ie)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/irish/blas](http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/irish/blas)      [www.irishforparents.ie](http://www.irishforparents.ie)

We also recommend using the following apps if you have a tablet device at home:

**Cód na Gaeilge**, **Sumdog**, **Cúla 4**, **Fuaim Ú**, **iMovie**, **Beebot**, **Scratch Jr**,  
**Book Creator**, **Green Screen**

and we welcome any recommendations for good apps you may come across at home!  
Please send them in!

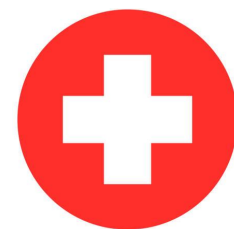


Please inform staff of any health and medical needs your child has including any food allergies, asthma etc

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

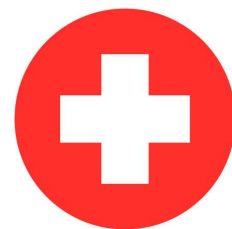




If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they have fully recovered to help prevent the spread of infection. NHS guidance on incubation periods for common illnesses is available online via the following link:

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance on infection control in%20schools poster.pdf](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.



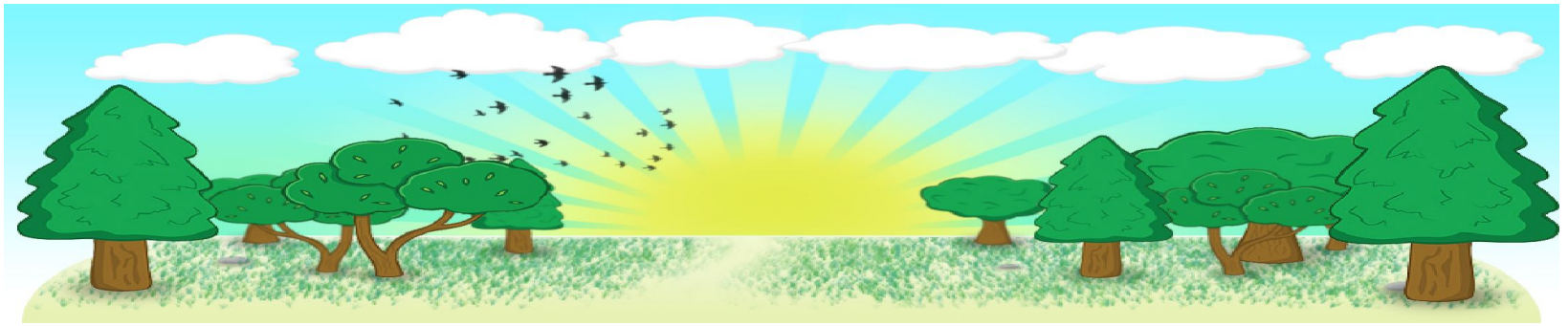




- Putting on own shoes, jumper, coat
- Velcro shoes
- All clothes labelled
- How to open and close schoolbags, lunchboxes, tupperware etc...
- Colouring in & scissor skills
- Reading with your child
- Recognise own name in writing/print
- Don't practice letter/name-writing yet! This often leads to wrong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



- Included in your information pack is a summary document of our Child Protection Policy along with our Intimate Care Policy for your reference.
- All of our other school policies are available to view on the school website [www.bunscoilbb.com](http://www.bunscoilbb.com) or from the school office by appointment with the principal



Please return data collection and permission forms, which have been given out to you from the Naíscoil, by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at the latest. Could you also provide the school with a photocopy (or send in the original copy for us to photocopy for you) of your child's birth certificate, as we need a hard copy for our school records, by this date too.

This presentation is available under the Parents Section on our school website [www.bunscoilbb.com](http://www.bunscoilbb.com).





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 after this evening, you may think of something you would like clarification on.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to email the school office on [info@bunscoilbb.com](mailto:info@bunscoilbb.com) or you can directly email Máire on [mboden273@c2kni.net](mailto:mboden273@c2kni.net) or by calling the school on 028 437 71356.

Go raibh maith agaibh.



**Mol An Óige**

**NAÍScoil & BUNSCOIL  
BHEANNA  
BOIRCHE**