

Introduction

Gaelscoil Inse Chór is a primary school which provides children with the opportunity to be educated through the medium of the Irish language. Irish is the day-to-day language of the school, and is encouraged from the children's first day. **Gaelscoil Inse Chór follows the Clár Tumoideachas or Immersion Model for Gaelscoileanna and English is not spoken or taught until Term 2 in Senior Infants.** Some parents/guardians are fluent in Irish; some want to start using what they learnt at school; and others have little or none to start with. What matters to Gaelscoil is that all parents support the aims of a bilingual education, that they wish their child/ren to speak Irish naturally and comfortably and that they will make every effort themselves to encourage the use of Irish at home as well as at school.

Gaelscoil Inse Chór strives for an open, welcoming atmosphere, in which each child is valued for her/his own talents and interests, both inside and outside of the classroom. The school, which is situated in Islandbridge near the river Liffey in Dublin 8, was founded in 1977 by a group of parents; and from the start, parents have always been encouraged to play an active role in its activities.

General Information

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Inse Chór sets out here its Enrolment Policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, to assist parents in relation to enrolment matters. Any further clarification of the Enrolment Policy can be obtained by writing to or meeting with the Principal or with the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Name and contact details of the school:	Gaelscoil Inse Chór, South Circular Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8 Ph: 01.679 6748; Website: www.gaelscoilinsechor.ie Email: gsinsechor@gmail.com
Principal: Chairperson:	Ciarán Ó Raghallaigh Terry Ó Máirtín
Type of school:	Education through the medium of Irish in a 'single stream' primary school enrolling one junior infants class each year. Co-educational school of mixed classes throughout.
Patron: Religious ethos:	Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Roman Catholic, with religious instruction given during school hours. The school also welcomes children of other denominations / religions and none.
Number of teachers:	9 mainstream class teachers

	1 administrative principal 2.8 special educational needs teachers
Opening times: Break times: Junior and senior infants: 1 st class to 6 th class	School opens at 8.50a.m. 10.30 – 10.45: short break 12.30 – 1.00pm: lunchtime School finishes at 1.30pm School finishes at 2.30pm

- This policy is reviewed regularly. Parents of applicants are responsible in ensuring the most up to date policy is being referred to for the year in question. This can be obtained in the school office, or on the website www.gaelscoilinsechor.ie.
- Gaelscoil Inse Chór (GSIC) operates within the regulations laid down by the Department of Education and Skills (DES), which provides the grants and teacher resources with which it operates.
- GSIC follows the national curricular programme prescribed by the DES, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).
- The Board of Management will have due regard to any relevant DES guidelines in relation to class size or staffing provisions and/or any other relevant requirements concerning accommodation, such as physical space or the health and welfare of children, to the best of its ability
- Within the context and parameters of DES regulations and programmes, the objectives of the school, the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act, and the funding and resources available, the school supports the principles of:
 - inclusiveness, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other special educational need;
 - equality of access and participation in the school;
 - right of parents regarding choice of school;
 - respect for the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

Enrolment Procedures and Decisions

- For enrolment at Gaelscoil Inse Chór, the school's policy is that pupils must be four years of age on or before the 1st April of the start year. Compulsory attendance does not apply until the age of 6 years. A copy of the birth certificate must accompany all applications.
- Places are allocated in accordance with a Points' System. Each child on the waiting list is given points under a number of headings/criteria, and

these are added up to decide the order in which the places are given. The points are explained in Appendix I below.

- Applications will only be accepted from parents/guardians during November in the year prior to your child starting school.(days school is open) An Applications Desk will be open every morning during November. Application forms must be given in person by parent/guardian of the applicant. Application forms received through the post/electronically will not be processed. Forms can be downloaded from the school website and filled out prior to coming to the school if you wish. A copy of your filled application form will be given to you for your records.. **These forms are not an offer of a place.**
- Under the points system, points are awarded for evidence of prior interest in education through Irish, as shown by the child's attendance at a Naíonra..**However, attendance does not guarantee a place at GSIC.** Naíonra are Irish-speaking pre-schools. A list of naionraí can be found at www.naionrai.ie.
- If your child has attended naíonra, a letter from the naionra should also accompany your application, specifying the naíonra and the duration of attendance- 1 year or 2 years.
- Points are awarded to children who live in the school's catchment area as agreed by the board of Management of GSIC. Details of the catchment area are set out in Appendix 1 below. Proof of address will be needed ie utility bill, This must be submitted with your application.
- With a Points System in operation it may happen that applicants may be on the same points but not enough places for all. In such cases, places will be awarded according to age, with the eldest being offered first. In the event that applicants are the same age, places will be awarded pending results of an interview in Irish. This is explained in Appendix 1.
- Places will be allocated and parents/guardians will be notified by the end of December of the same year in which applications to the school were submitted, in other words, 30 days after the final date for applications.
- Decisions on the applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management of GSIC, in accordance with school policy and exercising its own discretion.. In considering applications, the school will not discriminate on any of the specified grounds laid out in the Equal Status Act 2000/Equality Bill 2004.
- Applications forms filled incorrectly or without necessary supporting documentation will not be processed. This consists of a copy of the birth

cert, a copy of a recent household utility bill and a letter from a naíonra where applicable.

- We advise all applicants that GSIC request a voluntary contribution on an annual basis to assist in the effective running of the school. €150 per annum per family is the suggested sum which can be paid in full at the beginning of the year or in three instalments, one per term.

Enrolment of children with special needs:

The board of management may request a copy of the child's medical and / or psychological report. Where such a report is not available, the Board may request that the child be assessed appropriately and the school be informed of the content of the report.

The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her ability or special needs and to profile the support services required.

Following receipt of the report, the board will assess how the school could meet the needs specified in the report. Where the board deems that further resources are required, it will, prior to enrolment, request the Department of Education and Skills to provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the psychological or medical report.

These resources may include for example, access to or the provision of any or a combination of the following: visiting teacher service, resource teacher for special needs, special needs assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport services or other.

The school principal will meet with the parents of the child to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. If necessary, a full-case conference involving all parties will be held, which may include parents, principal, class teacher, remedial teacher, special class teacher, resource teacher for special needs or psychologist, as appropriate.

Enrolment or Transfer to Gaelscoil after Junior Infants:

Applications for transfer to Gaelscoil Inse Chór, or for enrolment in a class above Junior Infants, can be made at any time of the year. These applications will be considered by the Board of Management, and will be subject to school policy, which includes the following:

- Available space in the relevant class;
- That the child lives in the school's catchment area;
- Whether the transfer is from another Gaelscoil; and/or whether the child has a reasonable level of spoken Irish. Pupils transferring at first class level or

higher must have enough spoken Irish to enable them to enjoy the full benefit of education through the medium of Irish.

In some cases of transfer, the approval of the Department of Education and Skills will be required.

The Education Welfare Act (2000) contains some specific provisions in relation to the transfer of pupils including the requirement that information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress, should be communicated between schools. These criteria will be adhered to in cases of children transferring into GSIC.

Relevant Policies

The following policies should be read, understood and accepted by parents/guardians prior to a child accepting a place in the school:-

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Communications Policy
- Data Protection Policy

APPENDIX I

	Points System for Entry to GSIC	Number of Points
1	Children with sisters/brothers in GSIC, and siblings of former pupils.	40
2	Children of GSIC staff.	40
3	Children whose parent/s or guardian/s live in the school catchment area (See below)	15
4.	Children who have attended regularly for a minimum of one year at a Naíonra (Irish-medium preschool) - Attendance for one year Attendance for two years	5 10
	*With applicants being on the same points and the same age, interviews will be conducted measuring the interest/ability in the Irish. Places will be awarded resulting from these interviews.	

SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

The catchment area of Gaelscoil Inse Chór is defined as the following, *as marked on a map shown in the school office:*

Islandbridge
Kilmainham
Inchicore
Chapelizod
Lower Ballyfermot

Applications from outside the area are welcome to apply.

(Board of Management Gaelscoil Inse Chór September 2014).