



# **Lauelioar ny Paarentyn Parents' Handbook**



**Ta Bunscoil Ghaelgagh cur faillt erriu  
Welcome to Bunscoil Ghaelgagh**

kenjal - maynrey - sauchey

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Bunscoill Ghaelgagh. We hope you and your family will have a happy and fulfilling time during your years at our school.

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh provides the unique opportunity of learning in a bilingual setting. Not only will your child/ren leave school fluent in two languages but studies show that learning a second language expands the brain and opens new pathways which help in many areas of learning, not just in language acquisition.

We know that deciding to send your child to the Bunscoill shows real commitment to the language and culture of the Island. We also realise that the level of Manx at parents and carers will vary a great deal. We understand that it can be a bit daunting (exciting too!) for your child to be educated in a language you might not be too familiar with yourself. We are here to help though. You can pick up a copy of *'Cre ren oo jiu?: A Manx Gaelic Handbook'* for Parents at the office, whilst Mnr Cain will provide you with tips and advice for learning and using the language. He will keep you informed throughout the year but you can also contact him directly at **[adrian.cain@sch.im](mailto:adrian.cain@sch.im)**

## **Before your child starts school**

To help your child settle into school life and support their growing independence, it would be beneficial if they could manage some basic self-care and organisational tasks before starting school. This will ensure your child feels confident and capable in their new environment.

Ideally, we would like children to be able to:

- Dress and undress themselves
- Take off their coat, hat, and gloves and hang them up on a peg
- Take off and put on their own shoes and pumps (Velcro fastenings are best until they can manage laces independently)
- Carry their own belongings and put them away independently
- Use the toilet independently, flush after use, and wash their hands

## **The School Day**

08.50 - Children are supervised outside

09.00 - Children come into school for registration

10.30 am - 10.50 am – Morning break

12.00 pm - 1.15 pm - Lunch break

14.15 -14.30 – Afternoon break

15.30 – End of the school day



To help your child get the very best from their learning, please ensure they arrive on time each morning, ready to begin the day with everything they need. Being punctual means they can settle calmly, take part in the start of lessons, and feel prepared to learn alongside their classmates. We also ask that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day so that they can finish their day positively and safely.

## **Drop off and Pick up**

Please park safely and legally when dropping off and picking up your child (the arboretum car park is ideal). When waiting for your child, could you please wait outside the school gates and not on the other side of the road.

Please could we ask you to ensure that you:

- do not park on the bus stop outside the school
- do not park where it could inhibit the view of the crossing
- and always use the crossing with your child and teach them how to use the crossing correctly

## **Register**

The school register is taken each morning and afternoon. All absences must be supported by a parent/guardian's note or phone call. Any absence should be explained by a parent/guardian rather than the child or sibling.

## **Late arrivals**

If your child is late (after 9.10am) please fill in the late book located outside the office. If lateness becomes frequent then this will be followed up by the school.

For any holidays during term-time we ask that parents/guardians complete \*\*\* stating:

- Reasons for intended absence
- Start and last date of anticipated absence

Requests exceeding the maximum allowance would be recorded as 'Unauthorised Absence'.

## **Class Names:**

Brastyl 1 – Blein Toshee – Greeba (Bnr Blindell)

Brastyl 2 – year 1 and 2 – Bradda (Bnr O'Meara)

Brastyl 3 – year 3 and 4 – Barrule (Mnr Cain)

Brastyl 4 – year 5 and 6 – Sniaull (Bnr Clague)

## **Health**

If your child is ill please let us know they will not be attending by contacting the school as soon as possible; on the first day of absence. If your child becomes ill during the school day, we will contact you on one of your designated emergency contact numbers. If a child has the winter vomiting bug (norovirus), they should stay off school until they are 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. This helps stop the spread, as the illness is very contagious.

## **Parental Permission - Medicine**

If your child has been prescribed medicine by the doctor and has not finished it by the time of returning to school, members of staff are not obligated to carry out the administration of that medicine. Agreement can be sought from the school office or the Headteacher, to ensure safe administration. You will be required to provide a spoon with which the dosage can be taken and written information (by the parent or guardian) outlining the exact dosage and the time at which it is to be taken. Forms are available from the school office.

To ensure we are sufficiently safeguarding the children, a verbal communication will not suffice. If written requests are not received then regretfully the medicine cannot be given.

No medication should be sent into school with a child and all medication that does come into school should be clearly named.

## **Asthma**

If your child needs to use an inhaler during the school day, for treatment of asthma, please ensure that a school asthma card has been completed, available from the school office. We request that one inhaler is kept in school at all times, as a pupil who needs an inhaler cannot be in school without it, and pupils carry another for the journey to and from school. We will inform you if your child needs to use their inhaler in school.

## **Outdoor activities:**

Please note classes may go for walks or do risk assessed outdoor activities when the sun is shining. These aren't always timetabled in. Please make sure your child has appropriate school uniform. A suitable outdoor coat, with gloves, scarf and hat is advisable during the colder weather. Please teach your child how to fasten their own coat.

## **Sun Protection**

We do not put suntan lotion on the children at school so it's a good idea to apply it before they are dressed for school in the morning as this will protect their skin during the outdoor sessions. Please ensure that your child has a named sun-hat in school. (We do have spares.)



## **School Uniform**

Our school uniform helps to create a sense of belonging and pride. We aim for it to be practical, comfortable, and suitable for active learning and play. The uniform consists of:

- A navy blue sweatshirt, sweatcardi, or fleece — with or without the school logo (most children wear items with the logo)
- A purple, jade, or red polo shirt — with or without the school logo
- Navy, black, or grey trousers, skirts, or shorts / pinafores for the summer
- In warm weather during the summer and autumn terms, navy blue, jade, or red checked dresses may be worn. Cycling shorts can be worn underneath.
- Plain black supportive shoes or trainers suitable for outdoor play — please ensure your child can put on, take off, and fasten their own shoes (Velcro is strongly recommended for younger children until they can tie laces independently)



**Donated Uniform:**

We welcome donations of clean, used uniform.

These items will be placed in the KS1 entrance hall and will be available for purchase via an honesty box for donations on the shelf.

**PE KIT**

Classes do PE on an allocated day each week and you will be informed as to which those days are by class teachers. On their allocated day, please can the children come into school wearing their kit for the day

- A plain coloured t shirt
- A pair of plain shorts or legging
- A pair of plimsolls / trainers too for older children (teacher will advise)
- Please can long hair be tied back

Don't forget to name all your child's uniform, including pumps and coats.

**Earrings**

Earrings should be confined to sleepers or studs. For sport and swimming the child should remove them whenever possible or they should be covered by a plaster or other suitable tape.

**Lost Property**

The lost property box will be put outside each (fine) morning. Please check it for items you are missing. Any items left at the end of each term will be disposed of.

**Valuables and Toys**

We would ask that parents discourage children from bringing valuables, toys and precious items into school. We know that children can get upset if they lose such items or if a possession is damaged at school. We cannot be held responsible for any loss or breakages. Children do not need pencil cases.

**Reading Wallets**

The parent's group SnyP buy a reading wallet for your child when they first start school which has a name tag for your child's name. Once the children have settled into the new term, we will be sending home their reading books in the wallet. These should be in school every day. If these are lost then a replacement can be bought in school. These are available at the office.

### **Bringing devices and “technology” in to school.**

Digital and analogue watches are encouraged because they aid children in learning to tell the time and sequence events during the day, which are life skills. Fitbit style wristbands are also encouraged as they help children in the same way as watches and can also encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Any items that can do more than tell the time or count steps are not allowed as they often become a distraction and are capable of doing things that may not be appropriate in a school setting, such as recording people’s conversations, taking photographs or playing electronic games.

Mobile phones are not required by any children while in school. If you need your child to have access to one immediately after they have left the grounds then this can be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Please ensure that your child is not bringing a phone to school without prior consent.

### **Homework**

Any homework expectations will be communicated to you by individual class teachers during the academic year.

### **Lunchtime arrangements**

We ask parents to provide a healthy daily packed lunch with a water bottle for their children. Children are asked to leave any uneaten food in their boxes so that parents have an idea how much has been eaten.

Please ensure that your child’s name is clearly marked on their lunch boxes.

### **Snacks and Drinks**

In Blein Toshee (Early Years Foundation Stage), children are offered a cracker or a biscuit with a cup of water every day at morning break.

Other children can bring in a healthy snack of their own to put in the class snack tray to eat at morning break.

On Friday, KS1 and 2 children can bring 25p for toast. Any money raised goes into school funds.

### **Bus**

Children who get the bus home at the end of the school day wait in the bus stop and will be directed onto the bus by a member of staff. There is always one member of staff on bus duty at the end of the day. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child’s Gocard is topped up.



## **Helping in School**

The school continues to benefit enormously from the voluntary help offered by Manx speaking helpers who work with small groups of children to support them in their work. If you have any spare time and would like to use your Manx then please contact us to see how we can use your skills to support us in our school life.

We also ask for volunteers to assist with transporting groups of children from time to time and any help you can offer here is gratefully accepted, whatever your level of Manx. Please ensure you have completed a driver declaration form from the office before transporting children.

## **School Newsletters**

We aim to keep you regularly updated about school life and will send home newsletters via email.

## **Parent/Teacher meetings**

There are parents evenings in the Autumn and spring terms. A school report will come out in the Summer Term. If, however at any time you wish to discuss anything with a teacher or the head teacher, then please make an appointment.

## **Concerns**

If you have a concern about any aspect of your child's education or your experience as a parent of one of our pupils, then we urge you to let us know as soon as possible. We can arrange an appointment and work together to solve the problem.

## **Sheshaght ny Paarentyn**

All parents and guardians of children at Bunscoil Ghaelgagh are automatically members of Sheshaght ny Paarentyn or Snyp. This is our parents' association who work together to support the school by holding social and fund-raising events to help us provide additional resources and to assist in paying for extras such as educational visitors to school.

There are social events throughout the year, some of which are to raise money and other social events to get to know each other.

The AGM is held in November each year. Please come along and share any good ideas for fund raising you may have. It is also a good opportunity to meet other parents and find out more about the school.

If you would like to contact Snyp then please email [snyp797@manx.net](mailto:snyp797@manx.net)

## Swimming and Music Lessons

In KS2 all students take part in school swimming lessons. Details will be given about this beforehand. There will also be opportunities for older students to take part in small group instrumental lessons with staff from the DESC Peripatetic Music Team. Members of the Music Team will come in to speak to students and hand out forms for those who wish to participate.

## Transition to Secondary School

The application process for secondary school begins in the spring term each year. At Bunscoill Ghaelgagh pupils can choose to go to QEII where there is provision to continue to learn through Manx in two subjects for the first three years.

Or you can choose to send your child to the secondary school in whose catchment area you live but we cannot ensure there will be provision to continue studying through Manx.

If you have any concerns regarding the above, we are all here to help so please just ask.

