## Gaelscoil & Naíscoil Neachtain, Dungiven

### Inspection Summary Report - December 2024

- Gaelscoil agus Naíscoil Neachtain fosters a collaborative, inclusive environment underpinned by a strong Christian ethos where diversity and cultural heritage are valued. Its vision to nurture every child in a safe and supportive bilingual setting permeates every aspect of the life and work of the school.
- The children are confident, articulate and engage fully in their learning; they take great pride in their school and value the opportunity to learn through the medium of Irish. Throughout the school the children speak Irish competently and confidently with their peers and with adults.
- The school's self-evaluation process is informed well by consultation with relevant stakeholders. Priorities for improvement are identified and supported by an appropriate programme of staff professional learning. There is a need to develop further a better understanding of, and more robust system for, action planning for improvement across the school.
- Planning is in place for all areas of learning across the pre-school and primary curriculum which informs appropriately the provision ultimately leading to good outcomes for the children. A whole-school review of planning is required to connect the learning more meaningfully across the curriculum and to provide a wider range of opportunities for the children to develop further their thinking skills and personal capabilities.
- The staff implement effective wellbeing programmes as part of the school's personal development and mutual understanding (PDMU) curriculum which help children to develop self-awareness and regulate their emotions.

- The school uses well a blend of standardised and their own assessment tools to baseline and monitor the children's progress in Gaeilge, English and numeracy. The data is used to good effect to identify children who would benefit from targeted support in literacy and numeracy.
- The children who have been identified as having SEN are fully included in the school, supported well in their learning and development, and make good progress from their individual starting points.
- The school motto Ní neart go cur le chéile ('strength in unity') embodies the centrality of the school in the local Irish speaking community and reflects the positive relationships at all levels within the school. Effective partnerships with parents/carers and the strategic approach to collaboration with a wide range of external organisations and professionals support the school well in achieving its vision.
- At the time of the inspection, the evidence provided by the school demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance. The most recent version of the child protection policy should be agreed and ratified by the governors and the updated summary shared with parents/carers as a priority.

#### Areas for action:

- further development of action planning for improvement across the school; and
  - a whole-school review of planning for learning to connect the learning better across the curriculum and to provide a wider range of opportunities for the children to develop further their thinking skills and personal capabilities.





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### **Going forward**

- Gaelscoil agus Naíscoil Neachtain is successfully living out its motto Ní neart go cur le chéile and fostering a community of learning where everyone is welcome and included. With a dedicated focus on bilingual learners the school is equipping the children with invaluable skills for their futures while supporting the revival of the language locally and enriching the cultural fabric of the local area. The children are proud of their school and of their ability to speak Irish.
- Through the work of the district inspector, ETI will monitor the progress the school makes in addressing the areas for action laid out in this report.



