



LINKS CHILDCARE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Admission to Naíscoil Policy

Last Review Date: March 2022

Policy No. 33

Issued: 2018

Policy Statement

Links Childcare understands the importance of the Irish language to many families, and for those parents who would like their child introduced to some basic vocabulary and conversation *as Gaeilge* during his/her time at preschool, we offer a Naíscoil at Links Blackrock and Links Seabrook. These classes are very popular and hence are often oversubscribed, and so in this policy, we aim to set out our criteria for selection of children to be offered a place, and an overview of the work of the Naíscoil.

Introduction

Links Childcare has two Naíscoileanna, one situated at Links Seabrook, Portmarnock and one at Links Blackrock.

The Naíscoil environment is one where the child is exposed to basic vocabulary and structures, '*as Gaeilge*'. Children learn to hear the sounds and rhythms of Gaeilge through rhyme, music, song and art. Some of our Naíscoil children go on to a Gaelscoil for the Primary phase of their education, others just use what they have learned, to supplement the curriculum in the English medium school.

The Naíscoileanna in both of our centres, Portmarnock and Blackrock, are open to all children (subject to availability). No pre-knowledge of Gaeilge is required, and parents do not need to have a grasp of the Irish language in order to choose this option for their child.

Principle

It is the aim of Links Childcare to be transparent in all its dealings with parents/guardians. To this end the purpose of this policy is to outline clearly the criteria for admission to Naíscoil, in the event of there being more demand than there are places available.

Procedure - At Links Blackrock & Links Seabrook

1. Only children due to start school in the September following Naíscoil, are eligible for admission.
2. Children must be attending crèche for 5 full/half days per week
3. Each year there are 16 places allocated for children attending for full days and 6 places allocated for children attending for half days. Please note that half-day hours are 9am-2pm.

If, after the application of these criteria, demand still exceeds the number of places available, it may be necessary to use a lottery system to ensure fairness and transparency.

In the case where the Naíscoil has places available after it has been offered to existing children the applications will open to new enrolments. Please note criteria no 1,2,3 must be fulfilled.

Review

Management, in consultation with staff, monitors and reviews the effectiveness of this policy yearly or as required

Review Dates:	2019	January 2020	October 2020	March 2022
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