Naiscoil an tSeanchaí was established in September 2005 and has been growing steadily ever since. Such was the demand for the naiscoil that its success led to calls for the establishment of a bunscoil (Irish language primary school). As a result Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí opened on the site adjacent to Naiscoil an tSeanchaí in September 2009. For the first year, Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí was self-funded but received approval for Department of Education funding in September 2010.

An ETI inspection in March 2011 saw a favourable report with ‘good’ and ‘very good’ being used to describe all aspects of the education provision. Both the Naiscoil and Gaelscoil continue to grow and a new 3 year old programme was introduced in January 2011 to reduce the waiting list. The school has been further strengthened with the appointment of a full-time Principal who will take up post in September 2011. Liam Dempsey has been working with the NEELB for 3 years as a numeracy advisor for Irish Medium schools across Northern Ireland. His experience and contacts will make him a huge asset to the school.

Gaelscoil/Naíscoil an tSeanchaí
6A Killown Drive / Ceide Chill Eoghain
Magherafelt / Machaire Fíolta
Co. Derry / Co. Dhoire
BT45 6DT
Phone: 028 7963 4663
E-mail: seanchaischools@yahoo.co.uk

If you are interested in Irish-medium education for your child, or for further information, please fill in your details and return to the address below or e-mail us:

Name: …………………………………………………
Child’s Name: ………………………………………
Child’s D.O.B: ………………………………………
Address: …………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………
Post Code: ……………………………………………
Tel: ……………………………………………………

Gaelscoil/Naíscoil an tSeanchaí
Irish Medium Primary and Pre-Schools in Magherafelt

www.gaelscoilantseanchai.com
What is Irish-medium education?

Gaeloideachas or Irish-medium education
IME offers the highest standards of education through the medium of Irish. It has become the preferred choice of an increasing number of parents throughout Ireland in recent years. In Irish-medium schools, children are taught through a language immersion system which allows them to acquire Irish naturally through daily experience of an Irish language environment. Irish-medium education is available at pre-school, primary and post-primary Level and is available to anyone regardless of religion, race, political or social background.

Pre-School
Irish-medium pre-school education offers children the opportunity to play, learn and socialise through the Irish language. All Irish-medium pre-schools follow the pre-school curriculum.

Primary / Post-Primary School
Irish-medium primary and post-primary schools follow the same curriculum as English-medium schools with the added advantage of a bilingual setting. Pupils achieve a high level of fluency in both Irish and English. The formal teaching of English also occurs in all Irish-medium primary and post-primary schools.

What are the advantages?

International research shows that children benefit greatly from being able to speak two or more languages. Here are just some of the advantages:

■ Improved reading skills
■ Ability to learn further languages with greater ease
■ Improved communication skills
■ Increased employment opportunities
■ Higher academic performance
■ Enhanced self-esteem
■ Greater acceptance of other cultures

Frequently asked questions....

Can I send my child to an Irish-medium school even if I don’t speak Irish?
The majority of parents who decide to send their children to Irish-medium schools don’t speak Irish. It is still possible to support your child’s learning through Irish and encourage the use of Irish outside the classroom even if you don’t speak the language yourself. Often parents decide to learn Irish once their child has been enrolled at an Irish-medium school.

Are the same standards of facilities available?
All Irish-medium schools must adhere to Governmental standards, policies and procedures and all staff must be appropriately qualified. Irish medium schools receive Government funding under similar criteria to other schools.

How will learning everything through Irish affect my child’s English?
Some parents are initially fearful that Irish-medium education may have a negative impact on their child’s English language development. Research has shown however that pupils educated in a second language (e.g. Irish) do not suffer adverse consequences in the development of their first language (e.g. English).

Are there many Irish-medium schools?
Over 37,000 children are educated in Irish-medium schools throughout Ireland and provision is expanding rapidly with new schools opening every year.

Does this type of education occur anywhere else?
Bilingual/Immersion education has been successfully implemented in many countries throughout the world including Canada, Australia, Finland, New Zealand, South Africa, Wales and Scotland.