

## School Self-Evaluation Report Plan 4- Revision

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 The focus of the evaluation

This year the school's improvement plan involved revising all the improvements put in place since 2012- to see which ones they were going well in the school and which ones would be more work needed to sustain them.

Over the past four years improvements were implemented under the following headings: **General, Irish, Maths.**

2012 / 2013- General

- Irish
- Standardised Tests
- Aistear :method of learning through play in infant classes

2013 / 2014- Irish

- Accuracy of the Irish spoken amongst the children
- Enjoyment of Irish reading in senior classes
- School Organisation of Irish reading
- Presentation and handwriting of children

2014 / 2015- Mata

- Tables: Developing a School plan
- Mental Maths: That 5 mins would be spent on this every day
- To develop the Language of Maths In Rang 1,2

This report on the findings of the evaluation:

#### 1.2 School:

Gaelscoil this is established in 2006.

The school has grown since 2006 to children, teachers, new classrooms every year since 2006.

From 2012 there were 10 changes in the teaching staff and the principal became an admin Principal (no longer as a class to teach) in

September 2014.

It is a single stream school. We have Seven class teachers and three support staff. (2 are part time)

There are 202 pupils in the school (117 girls and 85 boys) and we expect to 230+ in the next few years.

## 2. The conclusions + Progress made on improvement targets previously identified.

| Topic under investigation  | Results to date* | Target score | Comments   | The future   |
|--|------------------|--------------|--|--|
| <b>PFS1</b><br><b>An Ghaeilge</b><br>That there will be an improvement in the richness and accuracy of Irish used in the school        | 19% go 44.5%     | 50%          | Getting more difficult as younger children are separated from older children in yard- teachers working on this continually (teaching phrases and yard games) - support of whole school community needed to keep our high levels of Irish | Big worry that the standard of Irish will slip and adherence to the Irish rule will slip as the school grows   |
| <b>Aistear</b><br>New methodology of play in infants classes since 2012  | 100%             | 80%+         | Aistear is in place in infant classes since 2012 - we had to adapt it to the Gaelscoil setting.  | The whole staff did a 5 day course on this Methodology in 2012- but to keep the high standard of this going in school any new infant teachers will need to receive training. |
| <b>Standardised testing</b>  | 100%             | 100%         | Every class from Senior infants have standardised tests every year and we added a new test this year in Rang 3 (NRIT). The school has a strong culture of assessment.  | continue with this   |
| <b>PFS2</b><br>Enjoyment of Irish reading in senior classes- (i.e. to reduce amount of children who say they don't like Irish reading) | 59% go 9%        | 20%          | We have a wide range of reading material available to children   | To keep the interest we will need to invest in new Irish reading material  |
| The organisation of Irish reading in the school  | 81.5%            | 80%+         | Teachers are very sure of the reading materials and methodologies to use in the school   | The school has a strong reading plan. New teachers are given induction in this plan.   |

|   |                  |  |   |   |
|---|------------------|--|---|---|
|   |                  |  |   | There is always work needed to improve the plan. This year we are looking at improving the system for teaching Irish phonics in the infant classes. |
| Presentation of work and penmanship of children                         | Improved greatly | High standard in school (as outlined in school plan) | There is a marked improvement noted in standard of children's work because of efforts of teachers working on this over last few years. Some further improvement need in : use of rulers, red pens and formation of letters. | The school has a strong school plan for this. The copies will be checked again later in the year.   |
| <b>PFS 3</b> Teaching of Maths tables in the school                     | 100%             | 80%+   | We have a strong school plan for this.  | continue with this  |
| Mental Maths- that every class will do 5 minutes mental maths every day | 74%              | 80%+   | We have a school plan for this  | Continued development   |
| The language of maths in Rang 1+2                                       | 100%             | 80%+   | We have a strong Maths plan and we have a list of what language needs to be taught in Rang 1,2 and a list of methodologies to do this.  | Continue with this  |

The biggest challenge for the school now and always is to keep these improvements as the school grows and as the staff changes. Staff need lots of time to carry out revision on all these plans and to induct new teachers and there is always pressure on the time we have available.

## 4. Summary of findings.

4.1 The school has strengths in the following areas:

The main points of PFS 1-3 have been put in place strongly in the school.

An Ghaeilge- We can be very proud of the positive culture we have in the school regarding spoken Irish.

Mental Maths- we have strong practices in the school around mental maths which gets the children thinking mathematically.

Tables- We have an enjoyable school plan for Maths tables in place.

Standardised Tests- We have a strong system in place.

Language of Maths- Emphasis is put on the teaching of the language of Maths in every class and especially in Rang 1+2

4.2 For this plan- the following are our priorities for improvement

**Irish in the yard**- we want to see an improvement in the Irish children use between each other in the yard and the car park. As the school continues to grow- this is still our priority. In the car park before school and after school we ask parents to support us and to ensure the children are talking Gaeilge to each other. The Irish Rule is active at all times on school grounds. We want to ensure also that children are speaking Irish at all times to each other during after school classes.

Also, the insertion of English words into sentences will not be accepted. We ask all parents to clarify all these points with the children. We want to be one of the best Gaelscoileanna in the country as far as speaking Irish is concerned- and we are on the road to becoming that. But with the school set to grow even further more effort will be needed. Apart from strong implementation of the Irish rule in the school (Rang 1-6) , we will continue to work tirelessly giving praise and positive motivation to the use of Irish in the school. We thank our parents for all the support and work with this.

**Mental Maths**- 5 minutes every day - from 74% to 80% implementation

**Presentation of work and penmanship in copies**- further improvement-

Le deaghú,  
FOIREANN NA SCOILE