

# School Self Evaluation Report, Gaeilge.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Focus of the evaluation

A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in St. Kilian's N.S. was undertaken during the period Sept 2017 to June 2018. During the evaluation of teaching and learning the following curriculum area was evaluated, The Arts and Creativity.

### 1.2 School Context

- This is a mixed primary school in a rural setting
- There are currently 368 pupils enrolled
- There are 23 teachers, 14 mainstream, 5 support, 3 Spraoi and an admin principal.
- The school administers the Drumcondra Gaeilge Test to 4<sup>th</sup> Class to identify areas of success and areas to be targeted for improvement over the final two years at school

## 2.

### 2.1 Collection of Data

- June 2018: Feedback from our Learning Support team.
- June 2018: Staff carried out a whole school review
- Feb/Mar 2019: Parent Feedback Forms on The Arts and Creativity sent to all parents.
- September 2018: Staff examined teaching and learning of Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil
- April 2019: Questionnaires issued to pupils by Student Council
- June 2018: Feedback from our Learning Support team.

### 2.2 Learner Outcomes

- 95% of pupils tested in 4<sup>th</sup> Class are performing at or above average in Gaeilge standardised tests.
- 62% are performing above average.
- Overall Méanscór Scoile 102, méanscór Náisiúnta 100
- Méanscór Scoile for Éisteacht 101, Méanscór Náisiúnta 100.
- 48% of pupils surveyed stated they did not like speaking Irish.
- 82% of pupils surveyed stated that their Irish is improving.
- 36/39 stated they try to speak Irish to teachers on the yard or in the school building.
- The majority of pupils who expressed an opinion stated that Irish can be made more fun by teaching through games, drama and song.
- 80 % of Snr Inf parents think it is important Gaeilge is taught at school. 65% need help from school to assist their child at home.  
80% said their child shares what they learned at school in the home. 50% get good information about how their child is doing in Gaeilge

- Staff identified Gaeilge as a strength. Gaeilge Neamhfhoirimiúil is very good in the senior classes. We need a similar emphasis in the infant classes on developing Gaeilge Neamh.

### 3. Progress Made on previously identified targets

N/A as no improvement plan was in place

### 4.

#### 4.1 Strengths

- 95% of pupils tested in 4<sup>th</sup> Class are performing at or above average in Gaeilge standardised tests.
- 62% are performing above average.
- Overall Méanscór Scoile 102, méanscór Náisiúnta 100
- Méanscór Scoile for Éisteacht 101, Méanscór Náisiúnta 100.
- 82% of pupils surveyed stated that their Irish is improving.
- We have a growing list of frásaí already displayed throughout the school building.
- All classes from 2nd upwards, learn a selection of Irish Music on recorder or accordion.
- New schemes have been introduced. Infant teachers have introduced Bua na Cainte and 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> have introduced Abair Liom. Both are highly interactive programmes, with a strong emphasis on Oral/Aural and Obair Bheirte.
- Growing use of intercom to promote Gaeilge in the school
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class perform an end of year drama, annually reinforcing language taught.

#### 4.2 Areas for Improvement, Sept 2018 - June 2021

1) Attitudes towards Irish needs to improve as children progress through the school. 48% of pupils surveyed stated they did not like speaking Irish.

2) Most parents, do not attempt to speak Irish at home with their children.

3) Irish does not hold relevance to children outside the school environment

4) Focus on frásaí na seachtaine for the infant classes in conjunction with working with the parents.

5) We are teaching all children frásaí na seachtaine. These will be put on the blog and announced by the class at Am don Phaidir, over the intercom every Friday.

Frása na Seachtaine based on vocabulary used for i) Am don Phaidir

ii) An Chrannchur

iii) Am Lóin

iv) An Leabhar Óir

v) Sa Chlós

6) Fógraí every day at 10.40 mostly as *Gaeilge*

7) Teachers supervising the stairs will meet and greet pupils "as *gaeilge*" and reinforce *frasaí na seachtaine*.

8) 4<sup>th</sup> Class will formulate *An Nuacht* over the course of the week and deliver every Friday over the intercom.

8) Introduce 'Maith Thú' tickets to reward children speaking Irish.

10) Station teaching for *Gaeilge Bheo* in Rang 4 once every two weeks.

11) All children in 5<sup>th</sup> Class are taught *Amhrán na bhFiann* (*Dialann Obairbhaile*).

12) 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class learn *Mo Phaidreacha* in the Homework Notebook

13) In all classes children and teachers will use *Gaeilge* informally. *Gaeilge* is being integrated across other curricular areas, and in particular in PE.

14) We will increase the level of print as *Gaeilge* around the school. We will have a noticeboard for *Gaeilge*.

15) *Seachtain na Gaeilge* will run around the week of 17<sup>th</sup> March and all classes will promote *Gaeilge* during this week.

16) Introduce standardised assessment annually for Rang 4 to ascertain the level of the children and formulate targets for them over their remaining 2 years.

17) Introduce standardised assessment for Rang 6.

18) Teachers will track three students' oral language development over the course of the year by choosing three oral Irish questions and by comparing responses from October to May.

19) Display *Feidhmeanna Teanga* in each classroom and highlight progress, to be passed on to the next teacher.

## 5. Legislative and Regulatory Checklist

Checklist has been completed.