

## **Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Roxborough.**

### **School Self Evaluation Report**

#### **1. Introduction:**

##### **1.1 The focus of the Evaluation**

A self-evaluation of teaching and learning is currently being undertaken in our school and is ongoing. This is not new to us, as we were already involved in a Comenius Project on self-evaluation. Some work therefore had already been carried out in this area. During the evaluation process teaching and learning in the areas of literacy and numeracy are being targeted. As the process developed literacy became the focus of our attention. Evidence in the area of numeracy was also gathered and will become our next focus once targeted initiatives in the area of literacy have been put in place.

##### **1.2 School Context**

This is a vertical mixed primary school. There are currently 280 pupils on roll. Our pupils are eager to learn and their parents very interested in their children's education. Support for the school from parents and management is very strong. We have a committed, dedicated staff and could be described as a very progressive school. We are involved in many other projects including Discovery Primary Science, Comenius, Green Flag, Scratch Computer Programming and Active School Flag. We are also very strong in the areas of sport, music and drama.

#### **2. The Findings**

Pupils, parents, teachers and the B.O.M. were all consulted in the evaluation process. Standardised Test Results are being analysed and graphed against national norms. Results indicate that in literacy and numeracy our children are performing above the normal distribution. 77.5% of the children are above the 51 percentile in reading and 80% are above it in Mathematics. 37.4% are above the 85 percentile in English with 34.5% above it in Mathematics.

Parent questionnaires were sent to a representative sample in the junior and senior end of the school up to 90% reported that they felt their children liked Mathematics and English and were doing well at both subjects. 100% of the children reported that they liked reading and 84% was the corresponding figure in Maths. Overall parental and children's attitudes towards literacy and numeracy were very positive.

Preparation for teaching and teaching approaches were consistent and follow a set template. Assessment of learning is also carried out in a measured and consistent manner. Assessment for learning has to be looked at but it has been piloted in a number of classes

using the WALT(We are learning today) and WILF(What I'm looking for) methods of continuous assessment.

Staff discussion also identified handwriting, the writing genres and oral language as areas which will be prioritised in the near future.

### **3. Summary of school self-evaluation findings and perceived strengths.**

#### **3.1 Perceived Strengths:**

- Standardised test results in literacy and numeracy far exceed the national norms.
- The reading culture in the school is well cultivated and maintained.
- The introduction of Jolly Phonics in recent years has had a positive impact. Evidence of this is based on MIST results and teacher observation.
- There is a print rich environment in all classrooms and the area of literacy is very well resourced.
- There is a structured approach to long and short term planning and test results are used to inform teachers planning.
- Parental and children's attitudes towards literacy and numeracy are very positive.
- There is a strong tradition of Shared Reading in the school and it takes place in many classes. This area is also very well resourced.

#### **3.2 The following areas were prioritised for improvement. Initially the focus will be on literacy.**

- We hope to bring standards in Reading Comprehension up to match our Reading Vocabulary Scores. To this end the Building Bridges Programme will be introduced.
- 18.7% of our pupils are between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in English. Literacy Lift Off will be introduced in the junior end of the school with a view to targeting these children and consequently raising their levels of reading and reading ages. Teachers will be trained in this programme.
- We will adopt a more consistent approach to the teaching of handwriting.
- An Oral Language Plan incorporating the components of effective oral language instruction needs to be devised
- Assessment of oral language i.e. tracking of bands of children needs to be examined and implemented.
- A structured approach to providing children with an opportunity to write in all genres needs to be put in place.

- A new initiative to develop their sounds – an app for junior classes is being piloted.
- A Literacy Link Teacher has been appointed and keeps the staff informed of developments in Literacy.

A three year plan for literacy and numeracy will follow from this Evaluation Report. Our plan will have specific targets and actions to be taken towards the achievement of these targets. Ongoing monitoring on how the plan is working will take place and success criteria will be applied to it. The plan will be available to the whole school community and will be published on our school website available at [www.spioraidnaoimhrox.ie](http://www.spioraidnaoimhrox.ie).