**Scoil Náisúnta Pheadair agus Phóil**

**Gaeilge – SSE**

**The Findings of the Evaluation**

Gaeilge Preparation for Teaching:

Curriculum objectives and the school plan are used to devise long and short term plans by teachers. Teachers plan with their class groups. They prepare fortnightly and long term plans and use their plans to guide teaching and learning. Learning outcomes and teaching approaches, activities and resources are identified in the plans. Teachers plan how they are going to assess the pupils learning. No standardised testing/ assessment test for Gaeilge is administered to identify areas for improvement before the children leave us at the end of sixth class.

Teaching Approaches:

Teachers employ a wide variety of teaching methodologies appropriate to the development of Gaeilge. Very good use is made of resources including IT to support pupils in their learning. Teachers differentiate the lessons effectively to cater for the needs and abilities of all pupils. Oral language is incorporated into daily life and classes, for example PE and Art, are also taught through Irish where possible. A ‘phrase of the week’ (frása na seachtaine) is placed on the entrance walls each end of the school but is not used as much as it should be/forgotten about. The children are encouraged to use the phrase informally throughout the day and to build on their bank of phrases that builds up throughout the year.

Management of Pupils:

A variety of organisational groupings and settings are used in classrooms to support the teaching of Gaeilge. A positive code of behaviour, including an anti-bullying policy, is implemented in a fair and consistent way. This is an inclusive school which respects all pupils regardless of background or gender. Teachers have high but realistic expectations of pupils’ behaviour and learning and they communicate these expectations to the children. Each class uses a variety of organisational styles – pair work, group work, individual work and whole class work. There is order and structure in the way activities are organised.

Assessment:

Teachers employ a large selection of assessment tools to assess learning in Gaeilge– observations, checklists, homework, curriculum objectives, questioning and spelling tests.

*Pupil’s engagement with learning:* Pupils at all class level are actively engaged in their learning. The level of pupil interest and participation is not as high as we would like it to be. Drama, songs, poems and interactive games are utilised to encourage and support pupils’ interest.

*Parental Involvement:* Parents are kept up to date with the topics being covered through the use of Fuaimeanna agus Focail Books. In recent years teachers have been sending home words and phrases to be learned each night linking with the class topic.

***Summary of School Self Evaluation Findings:***

Our school has strengths in many areas, both curricular and extra-curricular. Having worked on improving all areas of literacy and numeracy within the school we have decided to focus on Gaeilge this year. Our findings indicate a mixed attitude to Gaeilge among the parents attitude and also amongst the children. 50% of parents reported that their child likes Irish and 85% reported that their child is doing well in the subject. However only 25% of parents reported listening to their child using/speaking or reading Irish at home.

In the senior end of the school 37% reported enjoying Irish in comparison to 68% in the Junior end of the school.

Many said that classes are enjoyable with 78% of the children enjoying the use of the interactive games on the whiteboards and 72% enjoying singing as Gaeilge. However, the children still feel a lack of confidence in utilising their Gaeilge with only 46% feeling confident in their writing as Gaeilge. Children’s attitude to spoken Irish is slightly higher at 58%. 40% of pupils report using Gaeilge outside the classroom.

As a staff we have decided to focus on the development “Teanga O Bhéal”. We believe that through improving the attitudes and level of oral language in our classrooms, we should in turn see an improvement in the reading and writing also.

Our targets for the school year 2024-2027:

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| Improvement Targets | Required Actions | Success Criteria / Measurable Outcomes | Persons Responsible | Timeframe for Actions |
| **Target 1** Organise teaching and learning that will help foster better attainment and a more positive pupil attitude towards **Oral/Aural** Irish and to aim for an improvement in pupil attitudes over 3 years.  **Target 2**  Every class will be familiar with and actively use, the Feidhmeanna Teanga relevant to their year  **Target 3**  (excluding Infants) Organise teaching and learning that will help foster better attainment and a more positive pupil attitude towards Irish **Reading** and aim for a 10% improvement in pupil attitudes over 3 years.  **Target 4** (excluding Infants)  Organise teaching and learning that will help foster better attainment and a more positive pupil attitude towards Irish **Writing** | 1. Develop a list of sentences for written and oral work based on a specific theme each month. This list will be built upon as children move from class to class.   2. Each Gaeilge lesson to begin with 10 minutes oral language based on the theme that month. Teach the phrases mentioned above at this time also. Link the phrases to Irish homework.  3. Develop oral homework for Junior Infants to 2nd Class.  4. Assess mastery of the spoken phrases at intervals.  5. Introduce children to pop songs as Gaeilge  6. Celebrate and place emphasis on Seachtaine na nGaeilge in March and all elements of the Irish Culture this week  6. CPD to be sourced for teachers to build confidence and competence in Gaeilge.  7. Opportunity to share effective practice at staff meetings  8. Standardised testing to be introduced as Gaeilge.  1. Every class teacher will have a copy of the Feidhmeanna Teanga – to be highlighted as mastered by children –2 stage process – highlighted and ticked when mastery achieved. This will be passed along to the subsequent teacher as part of a Spiral Curriculum.  2. Feidhmeanna Teanga for each class level will be displayed on classroom walls and updated by class teachers.  3. Staff encouraged to give children opportunities to use Feidhmeanna Cainte in Obair Bheirte, Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiuil etc.  4. From 2nd -6 th class, children to keep a Feidhmeanna Cainte Notebook -– this will move with them from class to class  5. Focus on OBAIR BHEIRTE throughout the school.   1. Source a new integrated Irish programme from Junior Infants to 6th class. With a good grammar section or supplementary book to aid teaching and learning –   Graiméar le Chéile. – Use this to thematically support Abair Liom and consolidate grammar lessons.   1. Source new supplementary reading materials for 3rd to 6th class. 2. Introduce one or two nights per week where children have oral work or a Read at Home activity to do with parents 3. To build a print rich area in the classroom based on the theme of the month – including pictures, phrases, sample of work etc 4. Source a more structured Irish programme from Junior Infants to 6th class. 5. Graiméar le Chéile. – Use this to thematically support Abair Liom and consolidate grammar lessons. 6. Ensure that the classes are given useful phrases from their workbook which they then learn in context and utilise in their writing. 7. Develop a list of sentences for written and oral work based on a specific theme each month. This list will be built upon as children move from class to class. 8. Each class will write the Nuacht in their copies once/twice per week. There will be a specific set of sentence which each class should be enabled to complete, progressing in difficulty/detail as the go from class to class. | * The number of pupils reporting they like oral Irish will increase   • The number of pupils reporting they think they are good at oral Irish will increase.  • There will be some increase in the number of pupils saying they try to speak Irish outside of school.  • Junior Infants to 6th Class will use a new integrated Irish programme. (where possible – class splits dictate here to avoid repetition)  • All classes will have at least one assessment per term on the oral mastery of theme of the month.   * Senior classes to know 2 -3 pop songs * Partake in Seachtaine Na nGaeilge and have a timetable of events for the week * There will be an increase in children using these phrases in Obair Beirte, greeting guests, used in written work etc. * Improved performance in reading fluency. * The number of pupils reporting they like Irish reading will increase within 2 years. * The number of pupils reporting they think they are good at Irish reading will increase. * The number of pupils reporting they like Irish writing will increase * The number of pupils reporting they think they are good at Irish writing will increase * 3rd to 6th will use a new structured grammar * Phrases utilised in written work in class. * Children will be able to write the Nuacht in their copies. * Children will be able to write paragraphs in their copies relating to specific themes. | All Class Teachers from Junior Infants to 6th class  Ms. Carroll | By end of year 1, show some increase in positive pupil responses to a Pupil Questionnaire questions on Oral Irish.  • By end of year 1, there will be some increase in the number of pupils saying they try to speak Irish outside of school.  • By December, review and update Whole School Plan on Irish.   * By September 2025 an integrated Whole School Irish Programme to be in place based on the new oral language curriculum * By September 2025 these will be an appendix added to the Whole School Gaeilge Plan of class specific phrases, thematically organised. * By December 2025   • By September 2025, source and use a new structured grammar course for 3rd to 6th class.   * In May 2026, show some increase in positive pupil responses to the 2 Pupil Questionnaire questions on Irish Reading. * By end of year 2025, review and update Whole School Plan on Irish. * By September, source and use a new structured grammar course for 3rd to 6th class. * In May 2025, show some increase in positive pupil responses to the Pupil Questionnaire questions on Irish Reading. * By end of year, review and update Whole School Plan on Irish. * By September 2025 these will be an appendix added to the Whole School Gaeilge Plan of class specific Nuacht phrases for each class level. |