

## School Self-Evaluation Fossa N.S. 2018

### Teanga ó Bhéal

#### A. Preparation

- All teachers will need a copy of or online access to the Primary Language Curriculum
- Teachers will need to refer to the following documents: Looking at Our School 2016 and School Self-Evaluation Guidelines 2016-2020 (available on their own laptops).

#### B. Introduction and Exploration

Clarification as per circular 16/2018 ‘In the period March 2018 to June 2020, primary schools should select either ONE OR TWO CURRICULUM AREAS OR ASPECTS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (based on the domains and standards of Looking at Our School 2016) as the focus of their self-evaluation process (rather than the two to four areas/aspects which were required by Circular 0039/2016)’ At our staff meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> we discussed possible areas of focus. Following a staff vote we determined **Gaeilge – Teanga ó Bhéal** as an aspect of teaching and learning within the context of the Primary Language Curriculum to focus on.

#### Step 1: Identify Focus

All teachers in our school received professional help and advice from Conchubhair ó Laoighre (PDST) during an organised CPD training received in May 2018 in relation to developing our capacity as a school to enhance standards in oral language. We decided that, because the Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) is new to most, we would use the SSE process to support implementation. As a staff we decided to adopt a whole school approach to the PLC. From last year’s seminar we are aware that the PLC is an integrated language curriculum. This was an aspect of the curriculum that we felt would work on a whole school level. Therefore, we decided to focus on the transfer of skills across languages. The possibilities of teaching for the transfer of skills were referred to during the Primary Language Curriculum seminar.

It was decided that the school would therefore focus on Transfer of Skills with a focus on CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) where teachers would endeavour to use Gaeilge as a means of communication regularly throughout the day. It was decided that a

specific effort should be made to target PE as a subject where teachers would model communicative language that could be used during the lesson. This would include instructions to follow in Irish and relevant questions and answers to stimulate interaction between the children themselves and their teacher.

## **Step 2: Gather Evidence**

Evidence was gathered from a parent's questionnaire and from a pupil survey to ascertain a range of opinion regarding how Irish is perceived within the school environment. The findings are presented in our School Self Evaluation folder. Teachers also provided feedback based on classroom observations on children's standards of Irish with and added analysis on the Drumcondra Standardised Tests in Irish.

## **3. Analyse & Make Judgements:**

The results from our pupil survey revealed that children's attitude positive attitude towards Irish decreased as the pupils got older. It was also interesting to note 80% of infants perceived themselves to be good at Irish whereas that number dropped to 32% in 6<sup>th</sup> class. It was also interesting to note that the majority percentage in all classes from 2nd upwards wanted to spend more time engaging in oral Irish instead of writing and reading Irish. The following summary of the parents' feedback revealed the following data which will help us to inform planning in the future:

- 66% of parents perceived Gaeilge as a valuable subject
- 69% of parents use Irish occasionally in the home
- 33% of parents felt confident helping their child with Irish
- 75% are willing to become more involved in helping develop their child's capacity in Irish.

### **Self-Evaluation Report and School Improvement Plan Goal:**

This document will help teachers to engage with a teaching and learning aspect of the Primary Language Curriculum (Transfer of Skills) and explore how this can be implemented by using the School Self-Evaluation process.

#### **1. Preparation**

- All teachers will need a copy of the Primary Language Curriculum

- Teachers will need to refer to the following documents: Looking at Our School 2016 (LAOS) and School Self-Evaluation Guidelines 2016-2020
- Review work done on School Self Evaluation (SSE) in the past to reflect on the process with regards to our school context where applicable.

## **2. Introduction and Exploration the targets**

The focus of this evaluation: We will undertake the SSE process of teaching and learning during the period February 2019 to June 2020. We will evaluate the following aspect(s) of teaching and learning: The Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) and the transfer of skills across languages.. At a staff meeting in January 2019 the whole staff decided that, because the Primary Language Curriculum was new to most, it made sense to use the SSE process to implement it. We decided to adopt a whole school approach to the PLC. From last year's seminar we are aware that the PLC is an integrated language curriculum. This was an aspect of the curriculum that we felt we could work on at a whole school level. Therefore, the decision was made to focus on the transfer of skills across languages with an emphasis on oral Irish This SIP was initially drafted in January 2019 and shared with the school community. This document is being amended with dates on an on-going basis.

Tá sé beartaithe ag an bhfoireann an SSE seo a athrú go Gaeilge roimh deireadh na bliana. Tá cruineass thar a bheith tábhachtach agus tógann sé níos mo ama é a scríobh i gceart. Dá bhrí sin tá sé ar intinn againn teacht lé chéile mar fhoireann agus é aistriú go Gaeile ar an lá pleanála don Teanga roimh deireadh na bliana.