



SCHOOL NAME: SCOIL ÍDE  
SCHOOL ADDRESS: ARDNAMARA, SALTHILL, GALWAY  
SCHOOL ROLL NUMBER: 18634R

***School self-evaluation summary report for school  
community***

**Evaluation period: 2013/2014 School Year**

Report issue date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015

## Summary School Self-Evaluation Report

### 1. Introduction

Our school is under the patronage of the Bishop, Martin Drennan. There are 17 teachers including an administrative principal, 2 learning support teachers, two resource teachers (one shared), 1 language support teacher and 295 pupils in the school. We have a number of programmes operating in the school including Literacy Lift Off, Junior Entrepreneurial Programme, Debating, Music and after school activities – Chess, Art and Crafts, Speech and Drama, Spanish, French, Dance, Mandarin, Gaelic Football, Music. Our attendance levels are generally good. Our pupils' behaviour is generally excellent. For more information on how we intend to improve our pupils' learning, please see our School Improvement Plan which is available on request at Office in the school.

#### 1.1 The focus of the evaluation

We undertook a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the year. We evaluated problem solving in Maths. We chose this because we felt that our pupils could improve their learning outcomes in this area.

This report summarises the strengths that were identified and the areas that have been prioritised for improvement.

### 2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

We collected information from parents, pupils and teachers in preparing this report (parent and pupil questionnaires in certain class groups). We looked at how well our pupils were doing in problem solving in maths through examining pupil yearly assessments of certain class groups (Sigma T's). Teachers collectively undertook reviews of practice in Numeracy with a particular focus on problem solving.

2.1 We found that our school has **strengths** in the following areas:

#### Strengths with regard to Numeracy

- Attainment of curricular objectives: standardised test scores for numeracy attainment are significantly above the national norms
- Mental maths is a strength and forms part of every maths lesson in every class from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>
- 92% of pupils questioned responded "Yes" to the statement "I like maths", indicating a positive attitude towards maths.
- There is equal emphasis on all strands of the Maths Curriculum.
- Teachers' planning is based on the Maths Curriculum and the school Maths Plan.
- Talk and discussion and opportunities for pupils to explain answers is included in Maths lessons.
- There is an agreed whole school policy on Maths Language and agreed strategies for teaching various Maths topics.
- There is an agreed approach to numeral formation and presentation of written work.
- The school has a good supply of Maths resources centrally located.
- Results of assessments are used to inform teacher planning.

We know these are our strengths because of the evidence that was gathered.

## **2.2 We have decided to prioritise the following areas for development:**

### **Areas for development**

- The area of problem solving was identified as an area for improvement across all standards. 12.5% of pupils surveyed responded negatively to the statement "I find problem solving easy".
- Increase the number of pupils with positive attitude to problem solving.
- Strategies to support pupils' problem solving to be agreed at whole school level.
- Increasing opportunities for pupils to engage with Maths
- Examine how we can support parents with regard to the content, methodologies and language of Maths – especially topics of subtraction, long division and fractions.
- Examine strategies to provide challenge for more able students in Maths.
- Examine the books at senior level to see if they are addressing our needs in problem solving
- Maths language (more/less) at Junior level.

We have decided to prioritise these areas because these are the areas we want to improve our children's attitude towards problem solving in maths and to assist the parents of our children in whatever way we can to support their child's learning in this area in the home.

**Appendix to Primary School Self-Evaluation Report:  
legislative and regulatory checklist – reporting to the school community**

<p><b>Rules and regulations for schools are set out in a number of Education Acts, and in Circulars issued to schools from time to time by the Department of Education and Skills. The list below deals with important areas of school life and tells you what rules and regulations apply to them. You will find the Acts and Circulars mentioned on the Department's website, <a href="http://www.education.ie">www.education.ie</a>.</b></p>	
Which area of school life is involved, and what are the regulations?	Is the school following the regulations fully?
<p><b>The school calendar and the school timetable</b> Circular 11/95 sets down the length of the school year - minimum of 183 days</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Circular 11/95 sets down the length of the school day 4 hours 40 minutes (infants); 5 hours 40 minutes (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes)</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Parent/ teacher meetings and staff meetings</b> Circular 14/04 sets out the arrangements for these meetings</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Implementation of agreement regarding additional time in school for teachers</b> Circular 0008/2011 requires teachers to do an additional 36 hours of out-of-class work each year, so as not to reduce teaching time</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Standardisation of school year</b> Circular 034/2011 gives the dates for school holidays</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Valid enrolment of pupils</b> Sections of the Education Act 1998 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, and the Rules for National Schools set out the conditions for pupils to be validly enrolled in a school</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Pupils repeating a year</b> The circumstances in which pupils may repeat a year are set out in Rules for National Schools, and circulars 11/01 and 32/03</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Development of school plan</b> Section 21, Education Act 1998 requires all schools to have a school plan</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Engagement with SSE process</b> Circular 39/2012 outlines the school self-evaluation process and what it requires of schools</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Time for literacy and numeracy - assessing and reporting literacy and numeracy achievement</b> Circular 56/2011 sets out initial actions required in the implementation of the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Exemption from Irish</b> Circular 12/96 sets out the circumstances in which children are exempt from studying Irish</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Implementation of child protection procedures</b> Circular 0065/2011 and the Child Protection Guidelines oblige schools to ensure that: liaison persons have been appointed; the procedures have been communicated to the whole school community; and the procedures are being followed</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>Implementation of complaints procedure as appropriate</b> Section 28 Education Act 1998 provides for procedures to address complaints about a school.</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Complaints have been resolved or are being resolved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A x <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Appeals in the case of refusal to enrol students, suspension and expulsion (permanent exclusion)</b> Section 29 Education Act 1998 provides for appeals procedures in these cases, which are dealt with first of all by the school. Where cases are not resolved at school level, an external appeals committee hears the appeal and makes a decision.</p>	<p>x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Appeals have been dealt with or are being dealt with <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A x <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**Appendix to Primary School Self-Evaluation Report:  
policy checklist – reporting to the school community**

Schools are required to have certain policies in place as part of their permanent school plan. It is good practice for schools to consult with the school community in forming and reviewing many of these policies. The school board of management has to approve and ratify policies, and should ensure that they are reviewed on a regular basis.	
What area of school life does the policy deal with and what is the aim of the policy?	Has policy been approved by the board of management?
<b>Enrolment policy</b> Section (15)(2)(d) Education Act 1998 obliges schools to have and publish an enrolment policy that respects the principles of equality and parental choice	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Code of behaviour</b> Section 23, Education (Welfare) Act 2000, and the 2008 National Educational Welfare Board Guidelines set out regulations and good practice for schools to follow in drawing up and implementing a code of behaviour	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Anti-bullying policy</b> <i>Anti-bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools</i> , 2013 sets out regulations and good practice for schools to follow in drawing up and implementing an anti-bullying policy	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Attendance and participation strategy</b> Section 22 Education Welfare Act 2000 requires schools to develop a strategy to support high levels of pupil attendance and participation in school life	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Health and safety statement</b> All schools should have a health and safety statement that is regularly reviewed (see Section 20 Health and Safety Act 2005)	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Data protection</b> School procedures relating to gathering, storing and sharing data on pupils should comply with data protection legislation - Data Protection Act 1988 Data Protection (Amendment Act) 2003	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Internet acceptable use policy</b> Schools should have and implement a policy to instruct pupils on safe and responsible use of the internet. See <a href="http://www.webwise.ie">www.webwise.ie</a> for guidelines	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Special education needs policy</b> Various pieces of equality and education legislation, especially the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (EPSEN) 2004, require schools to be inclusive of pupils with special educational needs and to provide for them appropriately using the resources available	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) policy</b> Schools are required to have an RSE policy and to implement it in line with Relationships and Sexuality Education: Policy Guidelines (1997)	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Substance use policy</b> The National Drugs Strategy and Department Guidelines require schools to develop and implement a policy on substance use, in partnership with parents and other agencies	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Child protection policy</b> Circular 0065/2011 sets out requirements (see above for details of policy and implementation)	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Parents as partners</b> Circular 24/91 requests schools to set up a parents' association, and promotes partnership between home and school	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Deployment of special needs assistants</b> Circular 71/11 allows for SNAs to be deployed flexibly to respond to the needs of the school	x <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Other</b>	