



*St. Kevin's National School  
Pearse Street  
Sallynoggin  
Co. Dublin*

## *School Self-Improvement Plan*

*Evaluation period: Improvement Plan from September 2017*

*School self-evaluation*

## *Summary school improvement plan*

### **1. Introduction**

#### **1.1 The focus of the evaluation**

*As part of our ongoing work in the school, we conducted a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning this year. We undertook a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the year. We evaluated;*

- i. Literacy (new language curriculum, oral language and writing)*
- ii. Numeracy*
- iii. Other curriculum area – Science (third year) and SPHE (New programme)*
- iv. Attendance*
- v. Area Partnerships*

*For more information on how the evaluation took place, please see our School Self-Evaluation Report which is available to you in our school office or on our school website.*

*This school improvement plan sets out the actions that we will undertake in the school over this year and the next three years. The main purpose of these actions is to improve our pupils' learning, with particular respect to literacy and numeracy.*

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

#### **2.1 Our school has *strengths* in the following areas:**

##### **Strengths**

- i. There is continued evidence of outstanding teaching and learning in this DEIS band 1 urban primary school – the professionalism of each teacher remains, evident, quantitatively, in test scores and, qualitatively, in the breadth of methodologies and structure of each lesson. The climate and ethos was noted as a particular strength by visiting inspectors throughout the year and the professional development of teachers has continued in the last year, ensuring the commendable evidence of teaching and learning remains consistent alongside the introduction of new curricula.*
- ii. There is a high degree of pastoral care among all members of staff for the well-being of each pupil, encouraging learning and attendance, participation in school activities and excellent behaviour and conduct. This cannot be underestimated in a DEIS Band 1 urban primary school (where many pupils endure significant and daily challenges). It is a pertinent strength as we aspire to mould pupils that are empathetic, law-abiding and culturally aware as much as pupils that are literate and numerate.*
- iii. There continues to be a high degree of parental involvement and engagement with area partnerships, to the edification of both teaching and learning in the school community. The H.S.C.L. teacher, teachers, sna's and ancillary staff are to be commended for this. This will continue this year with additional classes and clubs – please see the Self Evaluation Report and the DEIS Action Plan for Parental Involvement for further details.*

iv. *St. Kevin's has improved its approach to Science in the following six ways, continuing for a third consecutive year:*

- 1) *Each class has undertaken minimum of 5 'hands-on' science investigations, each from one of the four strands; Living Things, Energy and Forces, Materials and Environmental Awareness and Care. We have also invited a science speaker to school and have participated in science events or projects run by other organisations.*
- 2) *We have encouraged pupils to use technology as part of their school and science work. By technology we mean Information Communications Technologies [ICT]. This included evidence of the students developing 'photostories', researching projects and using technology to record and analyse data collected e.g. a spreadsheet or graph and evidence of the children developing a PowerPoint presentation. This is also linked to our Green School presentations and achievements.*
- 3) *We also promoted engineering and invited an engineer to visit the school and explore the local area with pupils. We invited an engineer to the school to speak to the children about their work.*
- 4) *We have encouraged the pupils to use their maths skills as part of their science work e.g. measuring distances, capacity, weight, recording and analysing data. Using maths operations; ratio, percentages, averages. We also developed a number of maths trails around the school. We encouraged the older classes to undertake maths trails with younger classes.*

v. *Like Science, we have, for a third consecutive year, also improved and consolidated our instruction of the Physical Education curriculum, promoting Physical Literacy in our school. Physical Literacy is a fundamental and valuable human capability that can be described as a disposition acquired by pupils encompassing the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding that establishes purposeful physical pursuits as an integral part of their lifestyle. Each pupil engages with Zuu Chimps once a week. There is also weekly Gaelic coaching, weekly P.E. classes, weekly rugby coaching (in the third term) and dedicated swimming lessons for a period of twelve weeks, along with weekly dance classes for each pupil. The school has increased its' participation in national Gaelic and soccer competitions and participates in local blitzes such as basketball, futsal and 'Cuala All-Stars'. In addition, there are extra-curricular classes organised for pupils including basketball, volleyball, badminton, sailing, golf and football, each for a period of six weeks.*

## *2.2 Our school has decided to prioritise the following areas of development:*

### *Areas for development*

- i. Continue to implement throughout all classes a progressive plan that supports the introduction of the language curriculum – from Junior Infants to Second Class the oral language strand will be fully implemented and consolidated at this level (in both the English and Gaeilge curricula). The writing strand will be introduced from Junior Infants to Second Class alongside the First Steps Writing programme. Teachers will receive CPD with respect to the writing strand. All classes are ascribed a selection of class novels and supporting materials. Reading Recovery will also be reintroduced to support pupils where apposite.*
- ii. In order to continue to progress our numeracy practice, ten minutes of oral maths prefacing each numeracy lesson will continue, endorsing the development of lateral thinking and consistency in language where appropriate. There will also be an emphasis on the learning of tables, using a range of methodologies (See DEIS Action Plan). There will be a whole school approach to maths operations and maths language. Both the instruction of tables and practical problems will be supplemented by 'Snackbox', 'Brainbox', Planet Maths, Maths Challenge, Dropbox Tables Resources, IWB activities and Tables games.*
- iii. We will consolidate and progress the teaching and learning of Science for a third consecutive year, in the academic year 2017/2018. We will continue to operate a whole school approach to engaging with science, endeavouring to generate an interest in investigation amongst children, and assist each other as a staff to apply the DPSPM framework of inquiry based science teaching and learning. We will deliver the science curriculum in a cross curricular manner, concurrent to the attainment of curriculum objectives. This shall continue to build upon the work achieved last year and endeavour to achieve a third DPSPM Plaque of Excellence.*
- iv. We will consolidate and work on SPHE – particularly with respect to the new Stay Safe Programme.*
- v. The target for 2016/2017 was to increase our attendance rate and maintain an attendance rate at this increase, ideally at 93.5%. However, further analysis indicates that while attendance is at 93% for the months of September and October, it falls to an average of 87% in December, May and June. These months will be targeted specifically, to endeavour to maintain the attendance rate of 93% evident at the beginning of the academic year, as will pupils who have missed more than 20 days in the preceding academic year.*

*2.3 Our school has set the following **targets for improvement** which are related to pupils' achievement and has identified the following **actions** which will help in achieving those targets over this year and the next three years.*

*Please see our DEIS Action Plan (available to you upon request).*