



Ardfert Central National School

## OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:

In the last school year (2020-2021) we focused on oral language. We have many examples of effective/very effective practice in our school:

Flexibility re. timetabling

Aistear Programme (Junior & Senior Infants)

Role Play

Drama – film making, plays

Students' Committees/Councils

Initiatives e.g. SEAI One Good Idea, Junior Entrepreneur, Primary Science, Safe Cross Code, Creative Schools Award, County Debating

Tours, trips, events, outdoor classroom

School visitors

Technology – whiteboards, computers, Ipads

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better:

We sent out a parent questionnaire 'SSE in Literacy, Questionnaire for Parents on Oral Language (Speaking Skills)' to one class group in the school and collated the responses.

We also gave a 'Pupil Questionnaire on Oral Language' to one class grouping and again collated the responses.

This is what we are now going to work on:

This will be the last year of this SSE cycle so our focus is still on Oral Language.

All staff discussed steps to be taken to develop the area of Oral Language and 'Oral Reports' in particular.

Some classes used the Virtual Reality Headsets as a motivational tool to explore different themes and topics. The pupils will use this or whatever other stimulus they decide as a basis

to develop their own 'Oral Reports'. Other stimuli such as 'Our News', Drama and Curricular themes may also be used in various classes.

Pupils will be taught the appropriate age specific language to enable them to give an Oral report on a topic. They will also be taught how to structure a report.

Pupils will be given a number of opportunities to give a report to their own class grouping and they will give a report to another class in May 2022. This will develop their confidence and give them the practice that they need.

We are implementing the Primary Languages Curriculum and developing learning outcomes 3, 4 and 7.

This is what you can do to help:

Throughout the year all children will be preparing oral reports, please give your child the opportunity to give you the report orally at home as well.

If opportunities arise outside school where your child could transfer the skills he/she has learned to develop a report please encourage them to do so e.g. a trip to a museum, a birthday party attended etc.

A handout 'Developing Oral Language with your child Top Ten Tips for Parents /Guardians' was sent home to all families. Please try out some of the suggestions.

Here is some information about how we are carrying out our work and about what the Department of Education and Skills requires us to do.

### ***School time and holidays***

The Department requires all primary schools to have **182 school days** each year. This year we had 182 school days, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**. This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time.

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**. This year we had parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings, all in line with the Department's regulations.

### ***Looking after the children in our school***

The Department requires schools to follow the *Child Protection Procedures* it has set down. Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this. YES

All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them. YES

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Betty Stack (Principal)

and our Deputy DLP is Marie O Connell (Deputy Principal)

### ***Enrolment and attendance***

The Department requires schools to have and publish an admissions policy, to record and report attendance accurately, and to encourage high attendance and participation.

We have an admissions policy and it is published. YES  
We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on: September 2020  
We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required. YES

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: Information Night for parents of new pupils, Merit Awards at the end of the year, Praise for improvement, Policy given to parents.

This is how you can help: establish a good routine of going to bed early. Communicate any problems to the class teacher or principal that could be impacting on the child's wish to go to school or be on time.

### ***Positive behaviour for a happy school***

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour, and asks us to consult parents and children about it. We do this. YES

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour. YES

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school. YES