

**St. Oliver's N.S,
BALLYMAKENNY ROAD,
Drogheda,
Co. Louth
20349H**

School Self-Evaluation Summary Report for the School Community

Evaluation period: *March 2018-June 2019*

Report issue date: *24th June 2019*

Summary School Self-Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

St. Oliver's N.S. was established in 2010 as a vertical Catholic school. Currently, there are 24 teachers, 3 SNAs, 4 Ancillary Staff and 452 pupils in the school. We have a number of programmes operating in the school including Reading Recovery, Fun Friends, Food Dudes, Breakfast Clubs and Extra Curricular Activities.

Our attendance levels are relatively good. 94.6% for year 2018/2019. Our Attendance Strategy and incentives for attending school encourage pupils to attend. Our pupils' behaviour is excellent. For more information on how we intend to improve our pupils' learning, please see our School Improvement Plan which is available to view on the school website at www.stoliversprimary.ie. Keep an eye out for our Termly Newsletters that continually update parents and families about events, activities and programmes running in our school. Our Twitter account which is embedded into our website keeps parents up-to-date with current events and activities.

We have a structured approach to assessment and early intervention in Junior infants-6th Class:

Screening measures used:

- Junior Infants: Checklists BIAP Infant Test/ Early Literacy Test
- Senior Infants: Middle Infants screening Test and checklists.
- Senior Infants : Drumcondra Test of Early literacy/ Numeracy
- First – Sixth: Sigma T and Micra T & NRIT, Drumcondra Gaeilge, Reading and spelling
- First –Sixth: Drumcondra Primary Maths test, Drumcondra Gaeilge, Reading and Spelling

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

We undertook a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the year (March 2018-June 2019). We evaluated the following after a process of observation, consultation, analysis of Standardised tests, Staff discussions, surveys and questionnaires of pupils, parents and Staff.

- (1) Our teaching of Spellings within the school
- (2) How we teach Data and Measures
- (3) Strategies that we can utilise to alleviate anxieties and worries that our pupils are presenting with and strategies to build resilience in our students.

We chose these areas because as a Staff we felt that our pupils could improve their learning outcomes and emotional wellbeing in these areas.

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

The Six-Step School Self-Evaluation Process was followed and adhered to:

Identify focus

Gather evidence

Analyse and make judgements

Write and share report and improvement plan

Monitor actions and evaluate impact

2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings:

We collected information from parents, pupils and teachers in preparing this report. We looked at:

Standardised Tests Results: Drumcondra Spelling tests indicated that the number of pupils in the low, average and higher range scores needed improvement.

Teacher and Staff Reflection: Writing, Friday tests and work samples from pupils were analysed and Data extracted.

Pupil/ Parent Feedback: Alarming numbers of parents and pupils stressing and worrying over the Friday Spelling tests.

Whole School Plan: Following on from Staff discussions and Planning days, the whole Staff decided to overhaul our practice of teaching Spellings and embraced Spelling Dictations.

Review of Maths Resources: Following on from a Staff survey re: How WE Teach Maths AT St. Oliver'S n.s. It was noted by Staff that the maths equipment for Data and measures was not sufficient and more needed to be purchased.

Staff CPD/Summer courses: Dissemination of best practice in the area of Spellings by Staff who attended Brendan Culligan's courses.

Other Findings:

We also received assistance from external agencies to include SESS, NCSE, NEPs and PDST.

Findings of our Evaluation.

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

Strengths

- Literacy attainments of the pupils in our school compares favourably to national norms.
- Well-resourced libraries
- Very positive attitudes towards our teaching Methodologies in all subjects.
- Skilled and positive Staff who prepare comprehensively for lessons
- Bright, spacious, pleasant school building.
- Ability grouping and mixed ability grouping in classes and graded reading scheme has been adopted.
- Different forms of Team Teaching have been adopted also.
- Teacher Lesson Observation and sharing of best practice in different Curriculum areas based on the needs of the Staff.
- Great uptake by Staff in Continuous Professional Development Courses.
- Two teachers trained in Reading Recovery
- Two teachers trained in Incredible Years
- Four Teachers trained in Friends For life Training.
- Good use of ICT
- We have Green Flags for our work on Litter and Waste. We are currently, working towards our Travel Flag.
- We have recently been awarded The Active School Flag.
- We won The Primary Schools Challenge Cup and various GAA matches and Football games.
- We won at the Chess Championship.
- We have very strong links with local groups within the community.

We know these are our strengths because we gathered the evidence in the initial stages of our investigation.

Surveys, questionnaires, interviews with the pupils, staff discussion and parental involvement were used to determine our strengths and opportunities.

We have decided to prioritise the following:

Areas Prioritised for Development and Improvement

- Improve the way we teach Spellings to our children to enhance their learning
- Improve the way we teach Data and Measures, there appears to be a need for a more structured, hands on approach to match the specific needs and strengths of our pupils. - - -
- Develop strategies that we can utilise to alleviate anxieties and worries that our pupils are presenting with and strategies to build resilience and coping skills in our students.