

Numeracy September 2020

1. Introduction

A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in Literacy was undertaken by the Staff of St. Fergus' N.S. The focus of the evaluation were the areas of spelling and vocabulary throughout the school.

This is a report on the finding of that evaluation.

2. School Context

- This is a vertical, mixed, rural primary school operating under the jurisdiction of Bishop Breandáin Leahy.
- There are currently 132 pupils enrolled in the school.
- There are 7 teachers (5 class teachers including a teaching principal, 2 full time Special Education Teachers and 1 Shared S.E.T. for 10 hours per week. This S.E.T. is based in Ballyguiltenane N.S.)
- There are 2 S.N.A.s working within the school.
- The school administers standardised tests in Mathematics and English from 1st to 6th classes in May/June each year. These are the Drumcondra Reading Test and S.I.G.M.A.-T.

Woodcock Johnson Tables Tests are administered to record Tables Progress in Fifth and Sixth Classes

All Junior Infants are screened in the second term using the B.I.A.P. (Belfield Infant Assessment Profile)

The M.I.S.T. (Middle Infant Screening Test) is administered to Senior Infants in the Second Term. The SWST (Single Word Spelling Test) is administered to all classes from 1st (6 year olds in Senior Infants are included in this test) to 6th classes in November of each year. This is used to facilitate differentiated spelling tests for pupils.

3. Results of the S.I.G.M.A.-T of June 2019 were used to form a basis for this report.

4. Teacher observations were also used.

5. The Findings:

-Study of the S.I.G.M.A.-Ts of June 2019 found that children's overall results were good. Only 2 children from First to Sixth Class had a STEN of less than 4. The teaching of Maths through the school is of a very good standard.

-Upon examining the results, staff felt that the areas of Measures showed lower than expected results in all age groups, with the area of Time showing unexpectedly low marks. When staff discussed this further the following possible reasons for this were put forward

- a) The strand of Measures is often left until the final term and then taught quickly and possibly with less ground work done and concrete materials and experiences used.
- b) Measures is a strand often left to the teaching of Student Teachers due to the incorrect perception that it's nature lends itself better to inexperienced teachers.
- c) There is a perception that we all "know" time (and other measures such as length, weight, capacity) and will "catch it" eventually over the years as it is a topic often revisited.
- d) The perception that the days/seasons/months and calendars are topics covered in Junior Classes and that they do not need to be explicitly taught in Middle/Senior Classes

6. Our school has strengths in the following areas

- Standardised test results show that teaching and learning in the area of Numeracy remains good.
- Tables are specifically taught in most classes in our school and is assigned set time in class timetables through the school.
- Teachers feel that Numeracy is taught to a high standard within the school and that we are differentiating where necessary for the needs of each child. Test results corroborate this belief.
- Assessment of Learning and Assessment for learning are used by the teachers in our school.
- Station Teaching is used in the Junior Classes to encourage interaction and fun in the area of Numeracy.

7. The strand Measures-explicitly Time-and the teaching of Tables will to be a focus in the school years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. The following areas are prioritised for focus;

- ✓ Focus will be on the area of Measures for this and the next school years. The breakdown of the focus will be as follow

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
2019-2020	Introduce Time	Introduce Money Revisit Time	Introduce Length Revisit Money and Time
2020-2021	Introduce Capacity Revisit Length	Introduce Weight Revisit Capacity	Introduce Area/Perimetre Revisit Weight
2021-2022	Review Results of previous 2 years in Measures		

- ✓ Improve children's vocabulary in the area of Measures by introducing a "Language of Maths" Vocabulary Book of language used in each area. This will be sent home to parents with expected language guidelines in the strand of Measures for each class and each element.
- ✓ Designated list of apps to be used in the strand units of Measures to be researched by teachers, discussed and divided out to be used in each class.
- ✓ Introduction of Ballard and Westwood Tests in classes from First to Sixth and recorded in Aladdin to view overall standard of Tables in school.
- ✓ Use of more concrete materials to be used throughout the school to teach Measures-not just in Infant Rooms.
- ✓ Tracker Children to be picked in each class level for Measures and also for Tables

8. The legislative and regulatory requirements have been addressed.

*The term "tracker children" refers to a sample of children within a class grouping. Staff refer to the work/results of these children when studying the progress of students in a certain area of learning (in this case spelling and vocabulary development). It would not be viable for all pupils to be tracked for this purpose and so a random sample of pupils are taken and followed for statistical purposes.

Ratified at a Board of Management Meeting 11/3/2020

Signed: Tommy Barrett

CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Signed: Deirdre Kennelly

PRINCIPAL