



**St John's Girls and Infant Boys School
Cathedral Place, Limerick
06936r**

School Self-Evaluation Report

Evaluation period: *September 2012-June 2013*

Report issue date: *19th June 2013*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in St John's Girls and Infant Boys School was undertaken during the period September 2012-June 2013. During the evaluation process, teaching and learning in the following areas were evaluated:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- HSCL
- Attendance

This evaluation took the form of staff, parent and student questionnaires and focus groups

This is a report on the findings of the evaluation.

1.2 School Context

St John's is an Infant Boys and Senior Girls School. The school has 298 pupils, 21 teaching staff (including HSCL and a Special Language Class) and 1 Part-time SNA. There is also a School Secretary, a Caretaker and 2 cleaning ladies. We also have our own preschool on campus with 60 children and a staff of 8. All of these people along with our parent body create a very vibrant school community. It is a Catholic School under the Patronage of the Diocese of Limerick. The school aims to provide a secure and happy learning environment in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere for all of its pupils, parents and staff. Above all our aim is that each child enjoys and learns from his/her time as a pupil of St John's. The school has participated in the DEIS Programme since its inception. We have completed 2 DEIS Plans. We have engaged fully with all of the DEIS Programmes including Maths and Reading Recovery, First Steps and Ready, Steady Go Maths. We have strong links with the wider community including The School Completion Programme, Garryowen Committee, Garda Diversion, Novas, Dochas, The VEC, HSE, Paul Partnership, and Limerick Sports Partnership.

2. SUMMARY OF SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION FINDINGS

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

Highly Trained staff: 4 Maths Recovery, 4 Reading Recovery, 2 First Steps Tutors, 2 staff with the Dip in Special Ed, 4 Teachers engaged with IY Training for students and Parents

We are blessed with a full time secretary

The amount and quality links that we have with outside agencies are very effective and invaluable to the running of our school.

Every child can play an instrument from 2nd to 6th classes. 40 children are currently in the school band.

We have very effective links with our preschool which gives us a guaranteed enrolment of children who have gained a great foundation

We are very well resourced and have great facilities.

We consider the introduction of levelled readers to be of great benefit.

We have received extensive support from LEC around the implementation of the SIP and in particular around the area of Literacy. 5 staff members received in-service in same and this has informed school planning and the development of further literacy initiatives.

Early intervention has been key to the success in increasing literacy outcomes.

Literacy hour is a fine example of good practice.

Our Classes for Parents are fully booked each term.

We have a working student council.

2.2 The following areas are prioritised for improvement:

A full post holders review needs to be done in light of the loss of 3 post holders this year coming

More able students to receive more attention if possible

More sharing of innovative methods and good practice amongst staff

Numeracy milestones for each class level need to be specified in the school plan

Further work is needed on consistency of maths language and methodologies including a handbook on same for parents

Maths and trails need to be devised for junior and senior levels

The school needs to be a more maths rich environment

Consistency needs to be maintained with the cursive writing

Oral Language is a huge priority for us and we hope to develop strategies in the coming year with the help of the new Literacy Co Ordinator

Senior Literacy hour is needed,

Guided reading needs to be emphasised

2.3 The following legislative and regulatory requirements need to be addressed:

- We are fully compliant with all current legislative and regulatory requirements. All policies are drawn up collaboratively and are reviewed on a rolling basis

3. PROGRESS MADE ON PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPROVEMENT TARGETS

Sigma and Micra T Results are analysed on the attached sheet.

The following Targets were achieved in Year 1

The Provision of Reading Recovery to Senior Infants and First Classes

The extension of First Steps writing to all classes. This was achieved through specific timetabling and monthly assemblies on the topic timetabled.

Increased Library Visits 1st -6th

Jolly Phonics was introduced and is maintained in Junior Infants to 2nd Classes

CAPER is fully operational in Junior, Senior Infants and Second Classes

Early intervention through SEN support has been a great success

Literacy Lift Off is fully operational from Junior-First Classes. Other schools have visited us as an example of best practice in this area.

Maths for Fun operated in Junior, Senior and First Classes

A common maths language and mythology was agreed by the staff

An audit was carried out on Maths text books and it was decided to change the Maths Scheme throughout the school

Closer monitoring of Maths homework was recommended and achieved in Homework Club

Following a resource audit all classes are now fully equipped with the necessary concrete materials for numeracy

The Incredible years Parent Programme was completed by 10 Junior Infant Parents

6 Parents participated in a Parenting Course with Enable Ireland

2 parents successfully completed the training for the Transfer Program for Secondary School and delivered same to Parents

For a full HSCL Report please see attached sheet

Monthly, termly and yearly certificates for attendance were given out

The school calendar is now being given in June for the following year

The Early Release book is now in operation

Letters are now sent to parents to remind them that their child has now missed 12 days or more. A further letter and referral is sent when the child misses 20 days. All parents are spoken to about attendance when their child's absences reach 15 days.

All of the targets for year 1 were maintained in year 2 with the following additions

All teachers received training on First Steps Writing through the Crooke Park Hours.

5 teachers received intensive in-service for Literacy in the DEIS school at LEC.

Leveled Readers were introduced from Junior Infants to First Class at the cost of 6000.

Cursive handwriting was introduced across the school.

3 Teachers were trained in Incredible Years behavior Management.

Comprehension Strategies were started in 2nd to 6th Classes.

Mental Maths Programme introduced 2nd to 6th.

Third Maths Recovery Teacher Trained.

Our new pupil profile system is now fully up and running.

The importance of punctuality and not collecting early was emphasised at all Class Meetings and Parent Teacher Meetings, Newsletters and Assemblies.