

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Whole School Evaluation
Management, Leadership and Learning

REPORT

SN Naomh Colmáin
Clara, Co. Kilkenny
Uimhir rolla: 161161

Date of inspection: 13 November 2012



Whole-School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning Report

Introduction

A Whole-School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE - MLL) was undertaken in SN Naomh Colmáin in November 2012. This report is based on a selection of lessons observed in a range of learning settings in the school, interaction with pupils and review of their work, meetings with the principal and with board and parent representatives, completed parent and pupil questionnaires, and a selection of school documents.

There are 194 pupils enrolled and the attendance of most pupils is very good. Projected enrolment shows little variation in enrolment trends. The pupils enjoy successful participation in a range of co-curricular and extra curricular activities most notably in sport and in Arts Education. The board of management was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report, and the response of the board will be found in the appendix of this report.

Findings

1. The learning achievements of pupils

- The learning achievements of pupils are very good. They are highly motivated, self-confident and committed learners. There is significant development in their knowledge, skills and understanding from class to class.
- The quality of pupil achievement in literacy, both Irish and English, is commended highly. Achievement in numeracy is of a very high standard. Very successful learning outcomes are achieved consistently across the curriculum most particularly in Arts Education. The pupils are actively encouraged to take responsibility for their learning. As a result, their ability to think independently and direct their learning is well developed.

2. The quality of teaching

- The overall quality of teaching is very good. The teachers use a variety of teaching approaches that successfully stimulate and challenge the pupils. In particular, the teachers' awareness of and capacity to respond to the learning needs of their pupils are praised highly. They provide contexts for learning which are both challenging and enjoyable. Creative, collaborative and investigative activities which promote higher order and critical thinking skills are fostered consistently.
- Literacy and numeracy skills are promoted effectively across the curriculum. The teachers reflect critically on the impact of their practice through high-quality, classroom-based assessment and regular whole-school consideration of pupil achievement.
- The questionnaires issued to pupils and to parents indicate very good levels of satisfaction with the quality of teaching as all pupils surveyed consider that their teacher explains things clearly and all parents agreed that teaching was good in the school.

3. How well pupils are cared for and supported

- The school is characterised by its warm and welcoming atmosphere and its strong sense of community. It provides very high quality care and support for its pupils. The pupils are valued members of the school community and are treated with equality, fairness and respect.
- The holistic development of pupils is nurtured successfully through the wide range of learning activities and experiences the school provides.
- The school communicates regularly with parents and encourages them to actively support their children's learning. The parents' association successfully supports the work and initiatives of the school.
- Confirmation was provided that the board of management has formally adopted the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* without

modification and that the school is compliant with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

4. Leadership and management

- The principal leads and manages the school in a highly skilful manner. He exemplifies excellent professional standards and sets high expectations for teachers and pupils. Under his leadership, the in-school management team and teaching staff work collaboratively and successfully in ensuring on-going and worthwhile improvements in teaching and learning.
- The board of management works very effectively. Its regular consideration of teaching, learning and pupil achievement matters is praised highly.

5. School self-evaluation

- School self-evaluation (SSE) practices are of a good quality. The longitudinal tracking and analysis of pupils' attainment in literacy and numeracy is praised. The outcomes of this assessment have been used effectively in the development and implementation of the school's improvement plans for literacy and numeracy.
- In gathering evidence to inform future SSE initiatives, the school should include the voices and perspectives of pupils and parents.

Conclusion

The school has **strengths** in the following areas:

- The overall quality of teaching, learning and pupil achievement is very good.
- Pupil attainment in literacy and numeracy is of a very high standard.
- The school provides very high quality care and support for its pupils.
- The principal leads and manages the school in a highly effective manner.
- The pupils' interests are nurtured and their efforts and achievements are celebrated

The following areas require improvement:

- In gathering evidence to inform future SSE initiatives, the school should include the voices and perspectives of pupils and parents.

The school's capacity to make the necessary improvements and to develop further is very good.

Appendix

School response to the report

Submitted by the Board of Management

Area 1: Observations on the content of the inspection report

- The Board of Management of St. Colman's N.S. welcomes this very positive and encouraging WSE MLL report which affirms the dedication, hard work and commitment of all members of school community.
- The Board of Management would like to highlight the enormous contribution that teachers give in the provision of curricular and extra curricular activities and the excellent benefits that accrue.
- The Board of Management would like to highlight the tremendous involvement and supportive role of the Parents' Association in the running of the school and we are very pleased that this has been affirmed in the report.
- The management and care of pupils, which is at the heart of everything we do, was highly praised in the report. The Board of Management is determined to continue with such provision for the pupils.
- The Board would like to thank the inspectors who carried out the WSE MLL for the professional and courteous manner in which they conducted the inspection.

Area 2: Follow-up actions planned or undertaken since the completion of the inspection activity to implement the findings and recommendations of the inspection

School self evaluation practices, which are of good quality, will be further developed by including relevant questionnaires for pupils and parents when gathering evidence to inform future SEE initiatives.