

**Scoil Naomh Bríde,
Baile on Bhóthair,
Áth Troim,
Co. na Mí.**



**St. Brigid's N.S.,
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Trim,
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School Self-Evaluation Report 2012 / 2013

Primary schools are now being advised by the Department of Education to conduct school self-evaluations in various aspects of teaching and learning. The process is to be carried out over a 4 year period. For many years, teachers and school boards of management have used the school development planning process to identify what is working well in their schools and what might be improved. School self-evaluation is seen as a way in which this process of reflection, improvement and development can now take place in a more systematic way.

Over the next 4 years Scoil Naomh Bríde will prioritise some aspect of the following areas for self-evaluation.

- Literacy – conduct a report in 2012/2013, implement in 2013/2014.
- Numeracy – conduct a report in 2013/2014, implement in 2014/2015.
- Music – conduct a report in 2014/2015, implement in 2015/2016.

School context.

Scoil Naomh Bríde is a Roman Catholic School. It aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil; intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. The school prioritises the importance of the overall development of all of the children in its' care. Apart from the provision of curricular education to the children, the school promotes and encourages active participation in a wide range of extra-curricular activities/initiatives e.g. art, sport, music, drama, green schools etc.

Our self-evaluation is based on gathering information from the following sources where/if appropriate;

- Class teachers observations
- Board of management
- Children
- Parents/Parents Association
- Current school initiatives
- Standardised Assessment results
- Diagnostic Assessment results
- Observations of the school Learning Support / Resource Team
- Comparison of Whole school standardised test results with national norms

Scoil Naomh Bríde has a current enrolment of 178 children. The school has a total staff of 11, consisting of 7 mainstream teachers, 1 full time resource teacher, one full time learning support teacher, one part-time learning support teacher and an administrative principal. The school utilises fully the wide range of experience and talents that the teaching staff have. There are also ancillary staff employed by the school, a secretary, a cleaner and a caretaker.

Scoil Naomh Bríde has a very dynamic Board of Management who meets regularly during the school year. The board plays an active role in all aspects of the management and running of the school while at the same time forward planning for the development of the school as a whole. There is also a very committed Parents Association who is available to assist with school initiatives, transport, fundraising etc.

Scoil Naomh Bríde is an integral part of the community, a typical rural Irish parish where many of the children's parents and grandparents attended the school throughout the years. The school actively promotes school initiatives to the wider community as a whole and recognises the importance of the role that the school plays in the community.

At the start of each school year a detailed Plean Scoile is devised in conjunction with the school staff, Board of Management and Parents Association. This sets out the aims and objectives for the development of initiatives in curricular and non-curricular areas in the school for that particular school year.

Focus of the report

We as a school decided to focus on one particular aspect of literacy – *to introduce a whole school structured reading scheme.*

Oral Evidence gathered from;

- Class teachers.
- Children
- Parents
- Parents Association

Previously there was no structured whole school reading scheme in the school. Children selected books at random from the class library as a supplementary reader to read at home and the parents signed off on them reading the book when they were finished. By introducing a whole school structured reading scheme in the school we can ensure that children are reading at their own individual level of ability and are challenged appropriately.

We have also devised a set of questions for each book in the scheme and so parents will have the opportunity to engage with the child at home by listening to their reading and questioning the children on what they have read. Similarly, the class teacher will be able to hear the child and question the child on a piece of reading in class. A teacher may decide that the child hasn't fully comprehended the story they were given to read and may ask the child to re-read it. The children will also be encouraged to self-assess by trying to answer the questions at the end of a story themselves.

Focus	Teaching and Learning
Our specific priority	To introduce a whole-school structured reading scheme in Scoil Naomh Bríde.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that each child is reading at their own individual level of ability. • To ensure that each child is being individually challenged in their reading. • To enable the children to develop a better understanding/comprehension of what they are reading. • To encourage and develop parental involvement in children's reading. • To assist in ensuring that the objectives of the strands/strand units of the English reading curriculum are being met by the children.
Required Action/s (related to teaching and learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each child is assigned to a particular stage of the Oxford Reading Scheme based on the class teachers' recommendation/observations. • Teachers to assess children's reading and/or discuss with parents to ensure that the child is reading at the appropriate level. • Teachers to listen to reading on a regular basis ensuring that the child is reading fluently and has a comprehension of what they are reading. • Teachers to ensure that the child has reading for homework, that the piece of reading is signed off by parent and that books are changed accordingly.

