

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



**St. Brigid's N.S.,
Boardsmill,
Trim,
Co. Meath.**

Telephone/Fax: 046 9546358

Email: boardsmillns@yahoo.ie

Roll Number: 17947K

School Self-Evaluation Report Numeracy 2013 / 2014

1. Introduction.

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. (Circular 0039/2012)

1.1 The focus of the evaluation.

A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in Scoil Naomh Bríde was undertaken during the 2013/2014 school year. During the evaluation, teaching and learning in the area of *Numeracy; Understanding and Using Mathematics* was evaluated.

1.2 School context.

Scoil Naomh Bríde is a Roman Catholic School aiming to promote 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.

There is a current enrolment of 176 children in the school. The school has a total staff of 11, consisting of 7 mainstream teachers, 1 full time resource teacher, one full time learning support teacher, two part-time learning support teachers 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 Parent's Association who is available to assist with school initiatives, transport, fundraising etc.

The school 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.

2. The Findings

Our self-evaluation in *Numeracy; Understanding and Using Mathematics* - was based on gathering information from the following sources;

Standardised Assessment results in Numeracy.

Comparison of Whole school standardised test results with national norms.

Current school initiatives.

Parents randomly selected at our Parent/Teacher meetings.

Parents Association – parents were asked to complete the Numeracy surveys.

Children – a number of children were selected at random from the different classes and surveyed.

Class teacher's observations.

The following area is prioritised for further development – *Problem - Solving*

a) introduce and implement the 'Brainsnack' problem-solving programme from 1st – 6th class.

b) develop from 1st to 6th class children's knowledge of and ability to use 'RUCSAC' when working on problem-solving tasks.

Focus	Teaching and Learning
Our specific priority	a) introduce and implement the 'Brainsnack' problem-solving programme from 1 st – 6 th class. b) develop from 1 st to 6 th class children's knowledge of and ability to use 'RUCSAC' when working on problem-solving tasks.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop children's confidence in addressing 'problem-solving' and 'word question' tasks.• To develop pupil's skills in problem solving.• To develop pupil's knowledge of and ability to use a range of strategies to solve word problems in Maths.• To further develop children's understanding of the 'language of Maths' and in particular 'key words' that are commonly used in word problems.
Required Action/s (related to teaching and learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 'Brainsnack' programme will be structured from 1st – 6th class.• Each class teacher will use the 'Brainsnack' programme in their class each week.• A specific strategy 'RUCSAC' will be used from 1st to 6th class to help children identify the main aspects of a word problem and solve the problem.• Pupils will be given the opportunity to work collectively to discuss the specific problem and develop strategies to solve the particular problem.• Pupils will be encouraged to share their thoughts at various stages of the process so as to encourage peer learning.

