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## Coolick National School

### Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

### ‘Enjoyment and use of Gaeilge’ in Coolick National School

#### Introduction:

Coolick NS is a semi-rural co-educational primary school, located outside Killarney town. There are 114 pupils/78 families in the school. There are 5 mainstream classes, 1 full time SET, 1 part-time SET, 2 full time SNAs and 1 part-time SNA. The school population has risen steadily in the last number of years, and as a result, new buildings and classrooms have been approved.

#### Outcomes of our last improvement plan from 2023 - 2025

- Wellbeing Promotion in Coolick National School was the focus of our last SSE process. This process was highly effective
- The feedback and impact of our SIP in the area of Wellbeing Promotion are available as part of the overall SSE Sept 2022 to June 2026
- Further to a Staff Meeting in September 2025, it was decided, having discussed and reflected on the SIP based on Wellbeing Promotion, that the targets of the SIP had been achieved. This followed extensive review and reflection of the feedback from staff, pupils and parents.
- It was also decided to use the final year of the SSE process to undertake a short SIP on the Enjoyment and Use of Gaeilge in our school.

#### Gathering Evidence.

In term 1, staff were asked for their thoughts on the Enjoyment and Use of Gaeilge in school. Also, in term 1, using Google forms, parents were surveyed for their opinions on the Enjoyment and Use of Gaeilge within the school and also for their opinions and ways of helping them at home with Gaeilge. Pupils were also surveyed for their opinions on how to improve the Enjoyment and Use of Gaeilge.

The following findings arose from the surveys.

#### The Main Strengths of the School in Using and Enjoying Irish.

- 53% of parents were either very confident or fairly confident of helping their child with Irish homework.
- 70% of parents speak Irish often/occasionally at home.
- All teachers felt that the standard of Irish teaching and learning in school was either excellent or very good.
- 90% of pupils either always or sometimes enjoy Gaeilge Lessons.
- 92% of pupils felt either ‘confident’ or ‘okay’ when speaking Irish in Class
- The majority of pupils liked their Irish books
- No parent felt that Irish homework was too difficult

**This is how we know. (all surveyed results are available in the school office)**

A Croke Park hour involving all Teaching Staff was held to discuss the Use and Enjoyment of Irish in Coolick NS. All teaching staff were asked for their opinions and input on this topic. A Google Form was sent to all parents seeking their input on the Use and Enjoyment of Irish in School as well as their opinions on their self-confidence using Irish as well as any resources they would like to help them better support their child. All Pupils in Second to Sixth Class were surveyed for their opinions. The results of these surveys were recorded and analysed by the Middle-management team. These results were discussed at the Corke Park Hour meeting. This information was also gleaned from regular communication between staff, parents and pupils.

**This is what we are going to focus on to improve our practice further.**

- a) Initiatives to improve the use of Irish by pupils and staff in the school
- b) Initiatives to improve the enjoyment of Irish by staff and pupils
- c) Initiatives to support parents at home to assist their children to use and enjoy Irish more often.

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## Our School Improvement Plan

**Timeframe of this improvement plan is from September 2025 to June 2026**

	Targets	Actions	Persons / groups responsible	Criteria for success	Progress and adjustments	Targets achieved
1.	Úsáid na Gaeilge a fheabhsú ar fud na scoile agus na páistí taitneamh a bhaint as.	<p>Lá Gaeilge ar gach Céadaoin nuair a úsáideann gach múinteoir agus gach páiste níos mó Gaeilge tríd an lae.</p> <p>Chun béis a chur ar iarracht na páistí, cuirtear duais ar páiste amhain ó gach rang a dhéanann sár-iarracht sa cúmarsáid as Gaeilge</p> <p>De ghnáth, le linn na mbéilí te, féachann na daltaí ar chartún Gaeilge ó Sheinnteoir TG4 ina seomraí ranga.</p> <p>Cosúil leis na Reading Buddies, bíonn Cairde Gaelach ar siúl ar gach Céadaoin nuair a bhíonn na daltaí níos sine ag obair, ag caint agus a súgradh as Gaeilge lena comhpháirtí ó na ranganna óga.</p> <p>Múineann na múinteoirí ceacht amháin ar a laghad as Gaeilge ar feadh gach seachtaine. mar shampla, ealaín, ceol, corp oideachais nó aon ceacht eile.</p>	Gach Múinteoir agus rang	<p>Aiseolas ón bhfoireann, ó dhaltaí agus ó thuismitheoirí.</p> <p>I mí an Mheithimh 2026, déanfar suirbhé arís ar na ceisteanna sonracha a thug dúinn saincheisteanna a chreideamar gur ghá aghaidh a thabhairt orthu.</p>		
2.	Tacú le tuismitheoirí le níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt/úsáid lena bpáistí sa bhaile.	Ó am go h-am, seolfaidh múinteoirí stór focal nua, frásáí agus topaicí ábhartha abhaile, le húsáid ag tuismitheoirí sa bhaile chun tacú lena bpáistí.	Gach Múinteoir agus rang	<p>Aiseolas ón bhfoireann, ó dhaltaí agus ó thuismitheoirí.</p> <p>I mí an Mheithimh 2026, déanfar suirbhé arís ar na ceisteanna sonracha a thug dúinn saincheisteanna a chreideamar gur ghá aghaidh a thabhairt orthu.</p>		

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Persons / groups responsible</b>	<b>Criteria for success</b>	<b>Progress and adjustments</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
1.	Improving the enjoyment and use of Irish throughout the school	<p>Irish language day every Wednesday when every teacher and every child uses more Irish throughout the day.</p> <p>To emphasize the children's effort, a prize is awarded to one child from each class who makes an excellent effort in communicating in Irish.</p> <p>Usually, during the hot meals, the students watch Irish cartoons from the TG4 Player in their classrooms.</p> <p>Like the Reading Buddies, Cairde Gaelach takes place every Wednesday when the older students work, talk and play in Irish with their partner from the younger classes.</p> <p>The teachers teach at least one lesson in Irish every week. for example, art, music, physical education or any other lesson.</p>	All teachers and classes	<p>Feedback from staff, students and parents.</p> <p>In June 2026, the specific questions that gave us issues that we believed needed to be addressed will be re-surveyed.</p>		
2.	Supporting parents to speak/use more Irish with their children at home.	From time to time, teachers will send home new vocabulary, phrases and relevant topics, for parents to use at home to support their children.	All teachers and classes	<p>Feedback from staff, students and parents.</p> <p>In June 2026, the specific questions that gave us issues that we believed needed to be addressed will be re-surveyed.</p>		

