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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 113 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 reflections 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 Well- 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.

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The Main Strengths of the School in Well-being Promotion

- 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.
- 0% of parents felt that Irish Homework was too difficult.
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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 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

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	Targets	Actions	Persons / groups responsible	Criteria for success	Progress and adjustments	Targets achieved
1.	Improve the Enjoyment and Use of Irish throughout the school	Lá Gaeilge ar gach Céadaoin nuair a úsáideann gach múinteoir agus gach páiste níos mó Gaeilge tríd an lae. Chun beim a chur ar iarracht na páistí, cuirtear duais ar páiste amháin ó gach rang a dhéanann sár-iarracht sa cúmarsáid as Gaeilge De gnáth, I rith na béilí te, cuirtear na múinteoirí cartúin as Gaeilge on TG4 Player ar siúl sna seomraí ranga. Cosúil leis na Reading Buddies, bíonn Cairde Gaeilge 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. Múin na múinteoirí ceacht amháin ar a laghad as Gaeilge ar feadh gach seachtaine. mar shampla, ealaín, ceol, corp oideachais nó aon ceacht eile.	Gach Múinteoir agus rang		Parents completed online survey Students opinions received at Student Council Meetings and Whole School Assemblies Staff Opinions received at Staff Meetings	Target achieved as per written and verbal feedback from pupils, staff and parents, June 2026

2.	Support parents with speaking/using more Gaeilge with their children in the home.	Foclóir, frásaí agus topaicí ábhartha a sheoladh abhaile, ó am go h-am, do na thuismitheoirí chun úsáid a bhaint as sa bhaile.	Gach Múinteoir agus rang	Feedback from staff, pupils and parents. In June 2026, all will be re-surveyed on the specific questions which provided us with issues that we believed required addressing	Parents completed online survey Students opinions received at Student Council Meetings and Whole School Assemblies Staff Opinions received at Staff Meetings	Target achieved as per written and verbal feedback from pupils, staff and parents, June 2026

