

*A Whole School Evaluation took place in the school in October 2016. It was very beneficial for the staff and for the entire school community and it allowed us the opportunity to analyse our teaching methods, communication skills and lesson planning. The following is a summary of that report:*

*Although there were recommendations, the feedback from the inspectors was very positive. They praised the open atmosphere and cooperation that was evident between teachers, parents and the Board of Management. They were complimentary about the way we worked together.*

**Children's achievements**- *very happy with class displays in classrooms. Aistear and Total Immersion in Irish is working very well.*

**Maths**- *emphasis on children's confidence and ability- children should be encouraged to talk about their own learning.*

*Maths Language- they praised the importance the school places on Maths Vocabulary and they recommended we extend and improve this. Allow children to put mathematical sentences together to show that they understand concepts*

**Handwriting**

*There are a lot of examples of writing displayed around the school. The inspectors recommended reviewing our Handwriting Scheme.*

**Quality of Teaching**- *Findings: The school staff is very open and happy to discuss new methods of teaching. The staff is professional and there is good communication between teachers. The inspectors saw very good practice in many classes.*

**Language Objectives**- *They praised the method T.A.F.F ( Tá mé ag foghlaim faoi) that is used in classes. They recommended adding to this and emphasizing what the children will be able to do at the end of each lesson.*

**Differentiation**- *recommendations were made to ensure that tasks for children are suitable for all abilities. They saw very good examples of this in classes and they recommended that these practices be encouraged throughout the school. There is a strong link between the school and the local library. We have many reading resources in the school.*

*Recommendation- ensure work is suited to child's ability. Assessments to be carried out.*

**Learning Support**- *The inspector had a keen interest and knowledge of Learning Support and Supporting children with Special Needs. He recommended that a Weekly Plan be used. He praised the teachers' relationships with the children. He praised teachers' management of the children. He also praised the management and planning of all the teachers.*

**Leadership and Management**. *The inspector said that the Board of Management was*

*very effective and active in all aspects of the school. A safe place of learning is provided for children and staff. The inspectors praised the vision and methods of communication of school Principal.*

*CAIRDE were praised and they were especially impressed by the way members of CAIRDE attend Board of Management meetings. CAIRDE were found to be very effective and give great support to the school.*

**School Self Evaluation**- *The inspectors were very happy with our Self Evaluation. They commented that information and targets were on our school website and it was clear to see the impact of these on classes and in teacher's practices.*

**In-School Management Team**- *The team were praised also for their work.*

**The main points from this report are:**

- 1. Positive, open atmosphere based on school collaboration.*
- 2. Quality of learning – the quality of the pupils' learning achievements is good overall.*
- 3. Quality of Teaching - the quality of teaching is good throughout the school. Teachers demonstrate excellent communication skills.*
- 4. Management – the Board of Management operates in a very effective manner. Very good communication between the Board of Management and the school community.*
- 5. Special Educational Needs – good with scope for improvement in some elements of provision. Please refer to Area 2.*
- 6. Differentiation – ensure learning is differentiated in line with the range of pupils' abilities. Please refer to Area 2.*

**The main recommendations are:**

- 1. The school is advised to make greater use of assessment strategies to create learning outcomes that are suited to the range of pupil abilities and to implement them in the teaching – namely reading and Oral Language.*
- 2. Special Educational Needs – in order to provide appropriate supports to pupils with special needs, weekly planning should be undertaken. Please refer to Area 2, to see how the school will implement these recommendations.*

**Area 1: Observations on the content of the inspection report**

*The Board of Management of Gaelscoil na Camóige on behalf of the school community would like to express its gratitude to the inspectorate of the DES for the professional courtesy extended to us during the recent WSE. We found the process to be positive and encouraging. We are committed to implementing the recommendations outlined in the report.*

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

- (1) Our Literacy Committee and staff are reviewing our assessment strategies to differentiate learning objectives and to incorporate differentiated provision for pupils with various abilities. An electronic book/library tracking system has been researched and selected and will be installed to help oversee and co-ordinate a graded reading programme called 'Accelerated Reading'. We are also undertaking a graded reading programme in Irish called 'Cleite', differentiated according to each child's ability. Staff have availed of in-service provided by the Special Education Support Service in relation to station teaching and assessment. We have introduced a new handwriting programme from Naíonáin to Rang 2 which we hope to extend to all classes.*
- (2) The special education team has altered their planning from a fortnight plan to a weekly plan, under the guidance of the inspector and the Special Education Support Service., incorporating the learning objectives recommended in professional psychological reports. The special education team will be meeting with parents on a regular basis.*

*We have a wonderful school and are very happy to receive recommendations on how we can continuously improve and develop our teaching and learning. As the inspector stated, he believed the school could positively implement the recommendations because of the professional, collaborative nature of the school staff and their ability to discuss new approaches.*

*I would like to extend my appreciation to the school staff who worked tirelessly preparing for this inspection. They are always so diligent and the dedication and pride they have for the school is very evident. I would like to thank you, the parents, for your continued support. A special thanks to CAIRDE also.*