

# Rochestown Educate Together National School

Douglas Hall AFC, Moneygourney, Rochestown, Co. Cork

Roll Number: 20413N



School Improvement Plan: Oral Language for the Infant Classes

Evaluation Period: September 2015 to June 2017

Plan issue date: February 2016

## 1. Introduction

### The focus of the evaluation

As part of our ongoing work in the school, we conducted a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in 2014-15. We evaluated oral language. For more information on how the evaluation took place, please see our School Self-Evaluation Report which is available on our school website.

This school improvement plan sets out the actions that we will undertake in the school over the three years from 2015. The main purpose of these actions is to improve our pupils' learning.

## 2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

### 2.1 Our school has **strengths** in the following areas:

| <b>Strengths</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Pupils display very positive attitudes towards oral language.</li><li>✓ Pupils are provided with a variety of opportunities to develop their oral language skills.</li><li>✓ Pupils enjoy the oral language learning experiences provided at Aistear.</li></ul> |

We know this because we consulted with parents/guardians and teachers and examined test results and other information in the school.

### 2.2 Our school has decided to prioritise the following **areas of development**:

| <b>Areas for development</b>   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ An oral language plan for the Infant classes would provide a clear framework for teachers and parents.</li><li>✓ Teachers would benefit from the use of oral language checklists in all classes.</li><li>✓ Pupils would benefit from explicit lessons on how to be a good listener.</li><li>✓ Pupils would benefit from practising oral language skills in different contexts and for different audiences.</li></ul> |

We have decided to prioritise these areas because, as a new school that opened in 2013, we currently only have Junior and Senior Infants enrolled. After discussion as a Board of Management and as a staff, and on advice from our Inspector, Mr. Pat Delea, we feel that these focusing on these areas will be on the greatest benefit to our pupils at this time.

**2.3** Our school has set the following **targets for improvement** which are related to pupils' achievement and has identified the following **actions** which will help in achieving those targets over the next three years.

| Targets for Improvement   | Action  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ An oral language plan for the Infant classes would provide a clear framework for teachers and parents/guardians.</li> <li>✓ Teachers would benefit from the use of oral language checklists in all classes.</li> <li>✓ Pupils would benefit from explicit lessons on how to be a good listener.</li> <li>✓ Pupils would benefit from practising oral language skills in different contexts and for different audiences.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral language plan for the Infant classes to be developed and distributed to teachers and parents/guardians.</li> <li>• Teachers to use an oral language checklist based on the <i>Drumcondra English Profile</i> for Oral Language at two stages in each Infant class.</li> <li>• Pupils to be explicitly taught listening skills in term 2 in Senior Infants.</li> <li>• Different contexts are included in the Aistear Plan (e.g. home, doctor, restaurant, shop). The language learnt is to be included in the oral language plan for distribution to the wider school community.</li> </ul> |

As a parent/guardian you can help us by:

- Modelling good communication skills for your child, especially listening skills.
- Reading with your child on a regular basis and discussing the story together.
- Using the language on the oral language plan at home at the appropriate times during the school year.
- Encourage your child's language use in different contexts and for different audiences (e.g. a visit to the shop).
- Participating in as much of the school's activities as you can (e.g. Information Evenings, Aistear, Shared Reading Programmes).

**2.4** We know we will have achieved our targets when at least 75% of pupils in Junior and Senior Infants achieve at least level 7 on the relevant school-designed *Drumcondra English Profile* Oral Language indicator sets.