**Douglas Rochestown Educate Together National School**

**School Self-Evaluation**

***Gaeilge Labhartha for 2022 - 2024***

1. **Introduction**
	1. ***Focus of the Evaluation:***

School self-evaluation of teaching and learning is part of the ongoing work of Douglas Rochestown Educate Together National School (DRETNS). The focus of school self-evaluation for 2023/2024 is Gaeilge Labhartha. This was identified through staff meetings, a staff survey and discussion at Board of Management level.

* 1. ***School Context:***

Douglas Rochestown ETNS is an urban, mixed primary school under the patronage of Educate Together. We opened in 2013 and currently have three classes of Junior Infants, three classes of Senior Infants, three classes of First Class, two classes of Second Class, two Third Classes and two Fourth Classes, two Fifth Classes, two Sixth Classes and 2 Autism Classes . There are currently 477 pupils (243 boys and 234 girls), 19 class teachers, 2 autism classes, 7 support teachers and one administrative principal. 14 SNAs cater for the needs of those pupils with defined care needs. There is strong parental support for teaching and learning, a factor that is acknowledged as having a positive effect on pupil attainment levels and on pupils’ attitudes to learning.

1. **Findings:**

***Learner Outcomes:***

* In school, Irish is spoken mainly in class during Gaeilge lessons
* Children enjoy learning Irish through games, song singing and Drama.
* 0% of pupils report that they do use Irish in other subjects or on yard.

***Learner Experiences:***

* A high percentage of both teachers and pupils (up to 82%) say that they greet each other and say thank you in Irish.
* 92% of pupils report only speaking Irish during lessons throughout the week, at best.
* 33% of teachers report using Irish many times throughout the day. The majority say that they only use Irish during the Irish lesson.
* 27% of the children surveyed do not like speaking Irish and 36% said they had no feelings about speaking Irish

***Teacher Practices:***

* 92% report that they like speaking Irish.
* 67% report that they are good at speaking Irish.
* 33% don’t know/disagree that they are good at speaking Irish.
1. **Progress made in previously-identified improvement targets:**

N/A as this is the first year of the process

1. **Summary of school self-evaluation findings:**

***4.1 Strengths:***

* + Pupils report that they enjoy the learning activities during Irish lessons
	+ Our staff likes speaking Irish and feel they are good at speaking Irish
	+ Gaeilge is allocated the correct time as per DES guidelines.

***4.2 Areas for Improvement:***

* Whole school list of informal Irish that pupils should be hearing and saying (Frása na Seachtaine agus Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúl)
* Improving amount of Gaeilge being heard and spoken in school (as per survey)
* Using Gaeilge as the spoken language during the games strand of PE; for warm up games and encouragement.

**4.3 The DES legislative and regulatory requirements need to be addressed:**

* The school is compliant with all areas of the DES checklist.