

School Self-evaluation Report

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in numeracy was undertaken during the period 30/08/13 to 1/09/14.

1.2 School context

Scoil Naomh Eoin is a vertical co-educational primary school. The school is located in the Clonmagadden Valley in Navan Co Meath in the Parish of St May's Navan under the patronage of the bishop of Meath. Currently there are 380 pupils. We have a Principal, 14 class teachers, 6 resource teachers, 1 HSCL and 4 SNAs. The ancillary staff comprises of one secretary and one caretaker. Scoil Naomh Eoin was opened in 2003. The school is a catholic primary school which was established to provide for the education of all children in the Navan area. The primary school curriculum of English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Science, SPHE, Visual Arts, PE Drama and Music are taught. Other initiative in the school include First Steps writing, Literacy Lift Off , Mata sa Rang, Ready Set go Maths, Maths for fun, Maths Recovery and Reading Recovery. We also have a Spanish assistant. Extra-curricular activities include Gaelic Football, Basketball, Soccer, Cycling, Swimming Lessons, Tewniss, Athletics, Hip-Hop dancing, Drum lessons, Choir and Art classes.

2. The Findings

- Standardised test results in Maths (Sigma-T) show that on average most pupils are performing at or slightly above the national norm. In 2013, 25% of the pupils tested in the school scored above the 85th percentile while only 20% scored below 16th percentile.

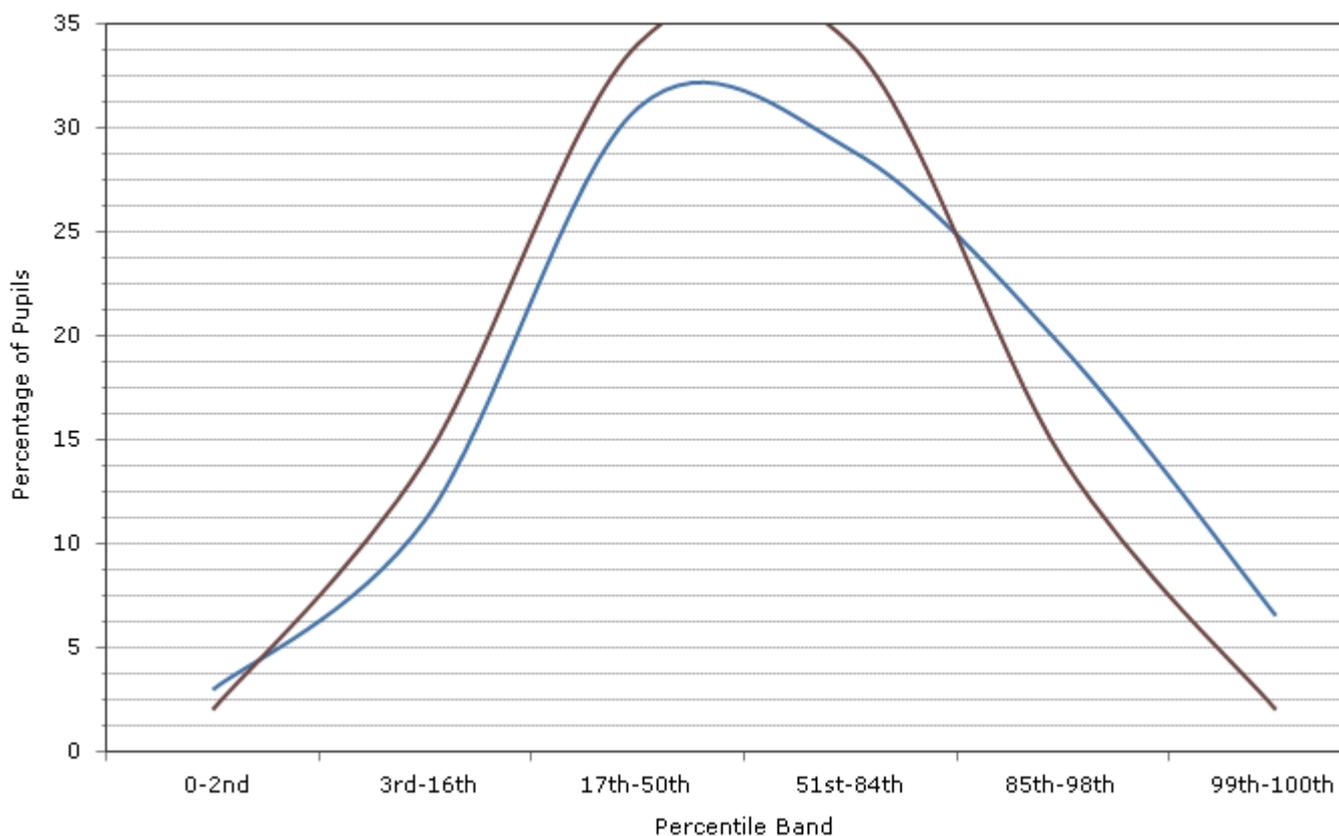


Fig 1 Sigma T bell chart

- As can be seen from the 2013 bell chart the children in Scoil Naomh Eoin scored better than the national norm in all percentile bands. This means that on average there are fewer children scoring a low percentile score than that of the national norm while there are more children scoring above a high percentile score than that of the the national norm
- Analysis of standardised test data over the last three years shows that we have been making progress with more children moving from just below average to average and above average.
- Our last three year plan aimed to improve number which is now strength in the school.
- Throughout all classes students display a good grasp of number, algebra and shape and space
- Measures and data needs further strengthening, while it was also felt that we should also try to improve further number concepts.
- The skills of concept and facts and computation and procedures scored above average in the 2013 Sigma T.
- Problem solving needs further improvement.
- Neat presentation was encouraged greatly in the school.

- A common approach/ language to the teaching maths have been agreed in the school and teachers refer to the school plan for direction.
- Responses from a survey of parents show 87% of parents believed that their child likes maths with 81% stating that they believed that their child was good at maths. However, 39% of parents reported that they assist with their child's homework.
- 80% of parents believed that their child's Maths homework is challenging enough
- Responses from a student survey state that the majority of pupils felt that they liked maths and that they were good at maths. When asked what topics that they find most difficult the majority of the answers were from topics from the number strand. Measures, shape and space and data were also mentioned
- Teachers surveys show that teachers Numeracy lesson's incorporate a variety of teaching methodologies, including talk and discussion and teacher questioning and that teachers would most like to use more co-operative and collaborative learning and higher order thinking in their lessons. 33% of teachers stated that pupils are given opportunities to work in pairs or small groups "sometimes", while 67% stated that students are "rarely" given such opportunities. With regard to differentiation, 25% of teachers stated that children "often" work at an appropriate ability level, 67% stated that they "sometimes" do, while 8% stated that they "rarely" do.

3. Progress made on previously identified targets identified in the current SIP
N/A for year one as SIP not in place yet.

4. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

4.1 Our school strengths

- Children's results in Standardised tests for Maths show an improvement year on year over the last three years
- Children report liking and enjoying maths and feel that they are good at it.
- Children are generally able to recite, recall and sequence stories orally and in written form
- Throughout all classes students display a good grasp of number, algebra and shape and space
- The children in Scoil Naomh Eoin in 2013 scored better than the national norm for all percentile bands
- 87% of parents reported that their children like Maths and 81% reported they feel that their child is good at maths. This was also reflected in the pupil survey group
- 80% of parents believed that their child's Maths homework is challenging enough

- Teachers report that they use a variety of teaching approaches including talk and discussion and teacher questioning

4.2 Areas prioritised for improvement

- Measures
- Data
- Problem solving
- Number