

School Self Evaluation

6 step process



Table 2.1 APPLYING THE SIX-STEP SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS

	TEACHING AND LEARNING			
Step 1: Identify Focus Relevant section of Guidelines: Chapter 3	Consider the Quality Framework overview Identify the domain most relevant to your school			
Step 2: Gather Evidence Relevant section of Guidelines: Chapters 4 and 5	Learner outcomes	Learner experiences	Teachers' individual practice	Teachers' collective / collaborative practice
	Investigate your area of focus			
Step 3: Analyse and make judgements Relevant section of Guidelines: Chapter 4	Evaluate the effectiveness of your current practice using statements of practice			
	Not effective ←————→ Highly effective			
Step 4: Write and share report and improvement plan Relevant section of Guidelines: Chapter 6	Record your findings and develop your school improvement plan			
	Share a summary of this record with the parents and school community			
Step 5: Put improvement plan into action	Actions at the level of the individual class Actions at the level of a group of classes (e.g. all second classes) Actions at the level of the whole school			
Step 6 Monitor actions and evaluate impact	Changes in practice Teacher experiences Pupils' experiences Impact on learning	ADJUST AS NECESSARY		

An Overview:

	What to Use?	Done?
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Step 1 – Identify Focus</u></p> <p>Members of the school community will need to identify a curriculum area or an aspect of teaching and learning that they wish to investigate. This will be based on their sense of their own context and where they feel their school might profitably explore the potential for improvement.</p>	<p>Activity 1: School Audit Activity 2: Focus area?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Step 2 – Gather Evidence</u></p> <p>Gather evidence about what is working well and what can be improved. Typically, information should be gathered from several sources. Both quantitative and qualitative data can be gathered from several sources including teachers, pupils, parents, management, classrooms and other learning settings.</p>	<p>Templates/Samples: Adapted from...</p> <p>http://schoolself-evaluation.ie/primary/resources/gathering-evidence/</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Step 3 – Analyse and Make Judgements</u></p> <p>Analysing the data and drawing conclusions based on the analysed data. Schools should determine, affirm and celebrate the strengths they identify in the aspects of practice being evaluated. They should also acknowledge the areas that should be prioritised for improvement. To be as objective as possible schools should judge the quality using the statements of practice in chapter 4 of the Guidelines, taking due cognisance of the school context.</p>	<p>Chapter 4 of SSE Guidelines.</p>	

<p><u>Step 4 – Write and Share Report and Improvement Plan</u></p> <p>Schools keep a record of their self-evaluation; plan for how they will improve the curriculum areas or aspects of teaching and learning being evaluated; and share the findings of the evaluation and the improvement plans with the school community.</p>	<p>Templates and further guidance here:</p> <p>http://schoolself-evaluation.ie/primary/resources/reporting-sse/</p>	
<p><u>Step 5 – Put Improvement Plan into Action</u></p> <p>This is the key step in the process. It is only when the actions in the improvement plan are implemented that the work of the school can improve. All relevant school personnel should share ownership of the actions to be implemented at individual teacher, class, or whole-school level. These actions should become part of the normal teaching and learning process.</p>	<p>Refer back to implementation plans and report</p>	
<p><u>Step 6 – Monitor Actions and Evaluate Impact</u></p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the impact of the actions.</p>	<p>Refer back to implementation plans and report</p>	

Step 1.

Activity 1: School Audit

Choosing a focus area:

What have we looked at so far?

Are there any new curricular components that we need to review?

Is the cohort of students changing therefore providing guidance on an area of provision to investigate?

What do teachers feel we should look at?

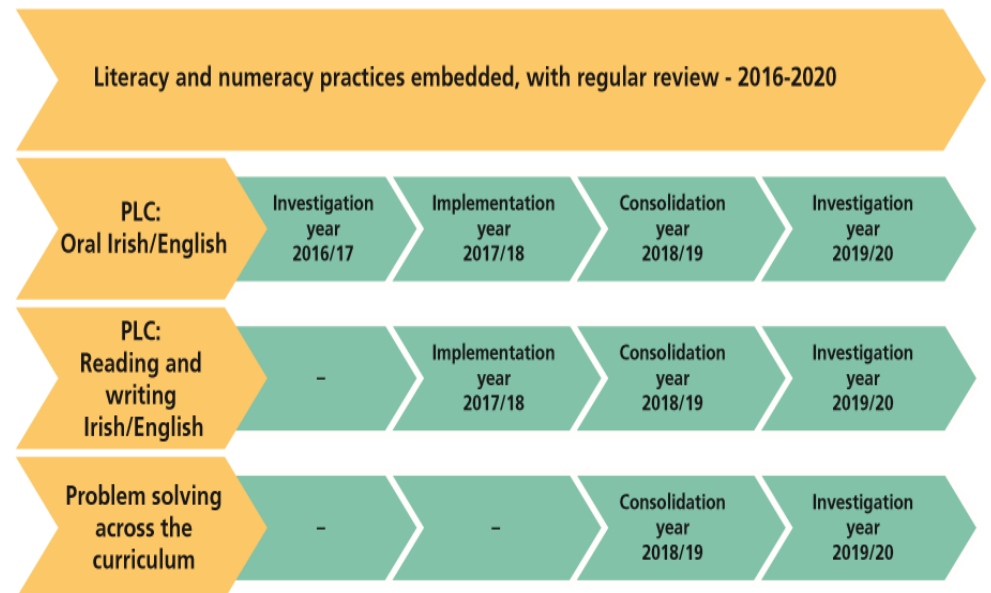
What are the areas of concern for management, leadership, teachers and other staff?

What are the concerns of students and parents?

Are there any Department reviews/initiatives that warrant our focus?

What did our Whole School Evaluation recommend?

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION, 2016-2020



Activity 2: Focus Area – L2LPs

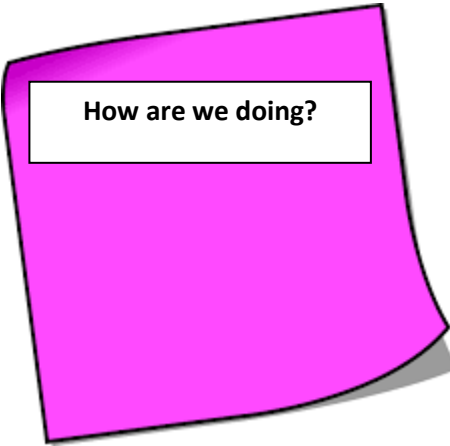
Teaching and Learning	Leadership and Management
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	DOMAINS	STANDARDS
TEACHING AND LEARNING	Learner outcomes	<p>Pupils: enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn, and expect to achieve as learners have the necessary knowledge and skills to understand themselves and their relationships demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding required by the primary curriculum achieve the stated learning objectives for the term and year</p>
	Learner experiences	<p>Pupils: engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive reflect on their progress as learners and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning experience opportunities to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning</p>
	Teachers' individual practice	<p>The teacher: has the requisite subject knowledge, pedagogical knowledge and classroom management skills selects and uses planning, preparation and assessment practices that progress pupils' learning selects and uses teaching approaches appropriate to the learning objectives and to pupils' learning needs responds to individual learning needs and differentiates teaching and learning activities as necessary</p>
	Teachers' collective / collaborative practice	<p>Teachers: value and engage in professional development and professional collaboration work together to devise learning opportunities for pupils across and beyond the curriculum collectively develop and implement consistent and dependable formative and summative assessment practices contribute to building whole-staff capacity by sharing their expertise</p>

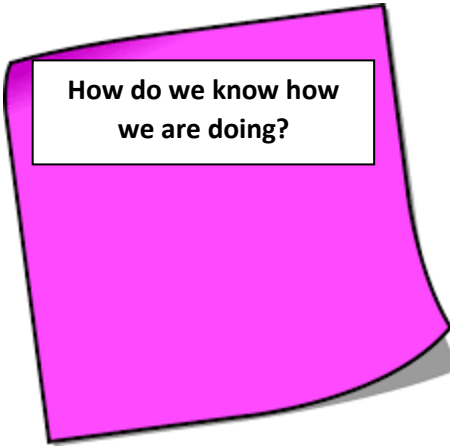
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT	Leading learning and teaching	<p>School leaders: promote a culture of improvement, collaboration, innovation and creativity in learning, teaching and assessment foster a commitment to inclusion, equality of opportunity and the holistic development of each pupil manage the planning and implementation of the curriculum foster teacher professional development that enriches teachers' and pupils' learning</p>
	Managing the organisation	<p>School leaders: establish an orderly, secure and healthy learning environment, and maintain it through effective communication manage the school's human, physical and financial resources so as to create and maintain a learning organisation manage challenging and complex situations in a manner that demonstrates equality, fairness and justice develop and implement a system to promote professional responsibility and accountability</p>
	Leading school development	<p>School leaders: communicate the guiding vision for the school and lead its realisation lead the school's engagement in a continuous process of self-evaluation build and maintain relationships with parents, with other schools, and with the wider community manage, lead and mediate change to respond to the evolving needs of the school and to changes in education</p>
	Developing leadership capacity	<p>School leaders: critique their practice as leaders and develop their understanding of effective and sustainable leadership empower staff to take on and carry out leadership roles promote and facilitate the development of pupil voice, pupil participation, and pupil leadership build professional networks with other school leaders</p>

How well are we doing?
How do we know?
What are our strengths?
What are our areas for improvement?
How can we find out more?

Teaching and Learning: Learner Outcomes?




How are we doing?




How do we know how we are doing?



What are our strengths?

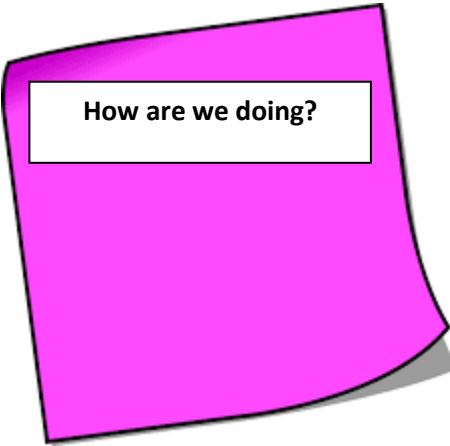


What do we need to improve on?

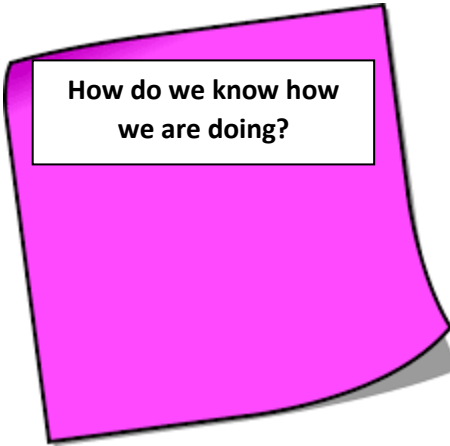


How can we find out more?

Teaching and Learning: Learner Experiences?




How are we doing?




How do we know how we are doing?



What are our strengths?

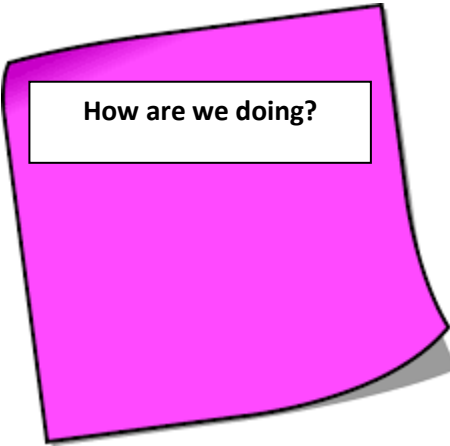


What do we need to improve on?

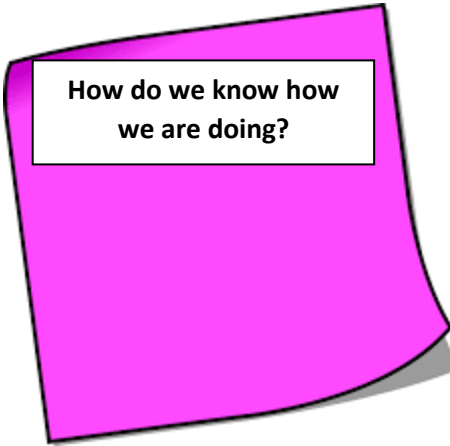


How can we find out more?

Teaching and Learning: Teachers Individual Practices?

A pink sticky note with a white rectangular label at the top containing the text "How are we doing?".


How are we doing?

A pink sticky note with a white rectangular label at the top containing the text "How do we know how we are doing?".


How do we know how we are doing?

A pink sticky note with a white rectangular label at the top containing the text "What are our strengths?".

What are our strengths?

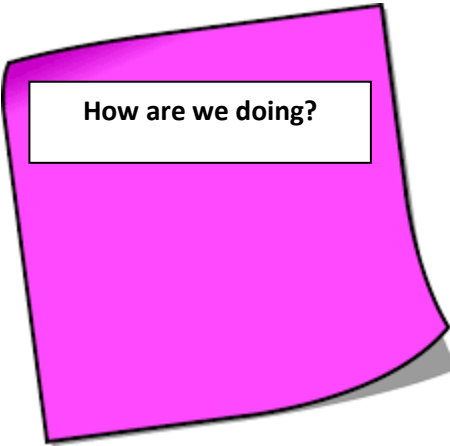
A pink sticky note with a white rectangular label at the top containing the text "What do we need to improve on?".

What do we need to improve on?

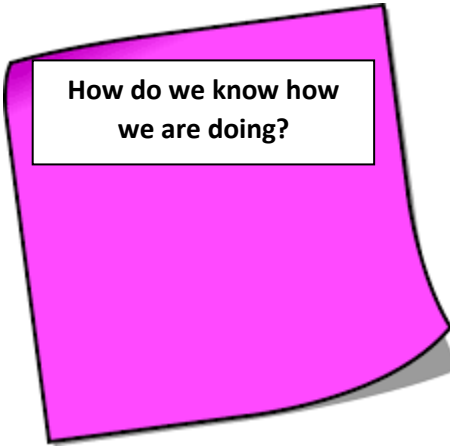
A pink sticky note with a white rectangular label at the top containing the text "How can we find out more?".

How can we find out more?

Teaching and Learning: Teachers Collective/Collaborative Practices?




How are we doing?




How do we know how we are doing?



What are our strengths?

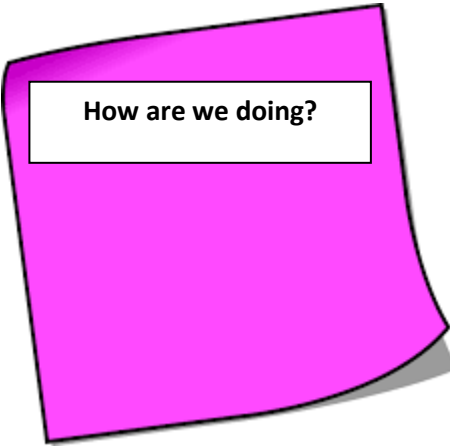


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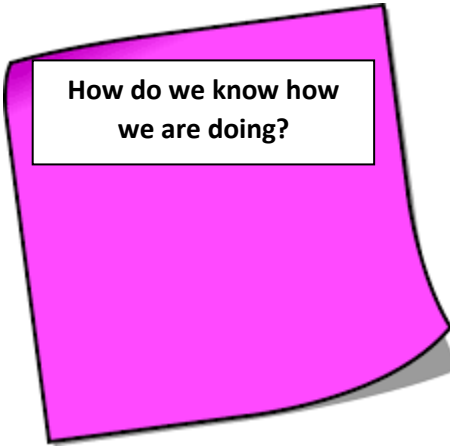


How can we find out more?

Leadership and Management: Leading Learning and Teaching?




How are we doing?




How do we know how we are doing?



What are our strengths?

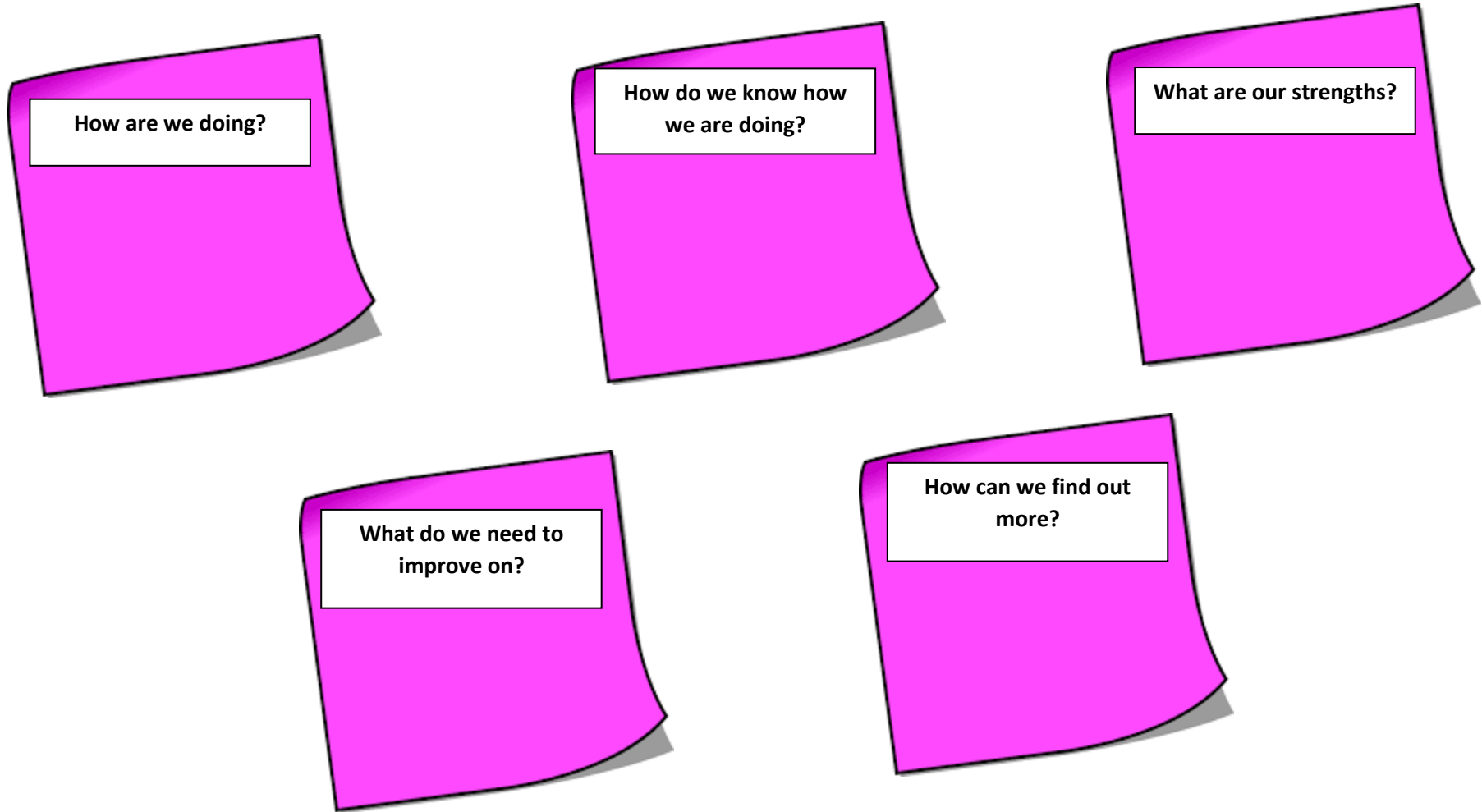


What do we need to improve on?

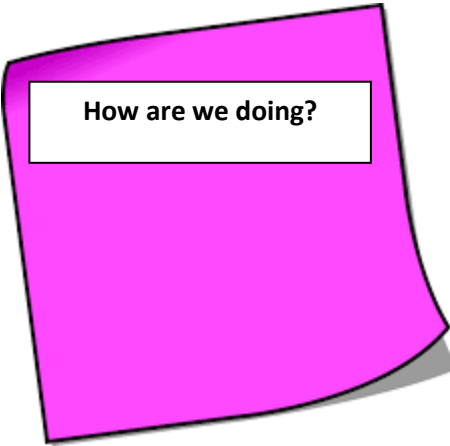


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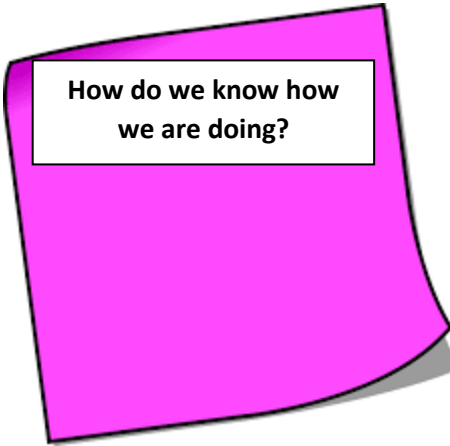
Leadership and Management: Managing the Organisation?



Leadership and Management: Leading School Development?




How are we doing?




How do we know how we are doing?



What are our strengths?

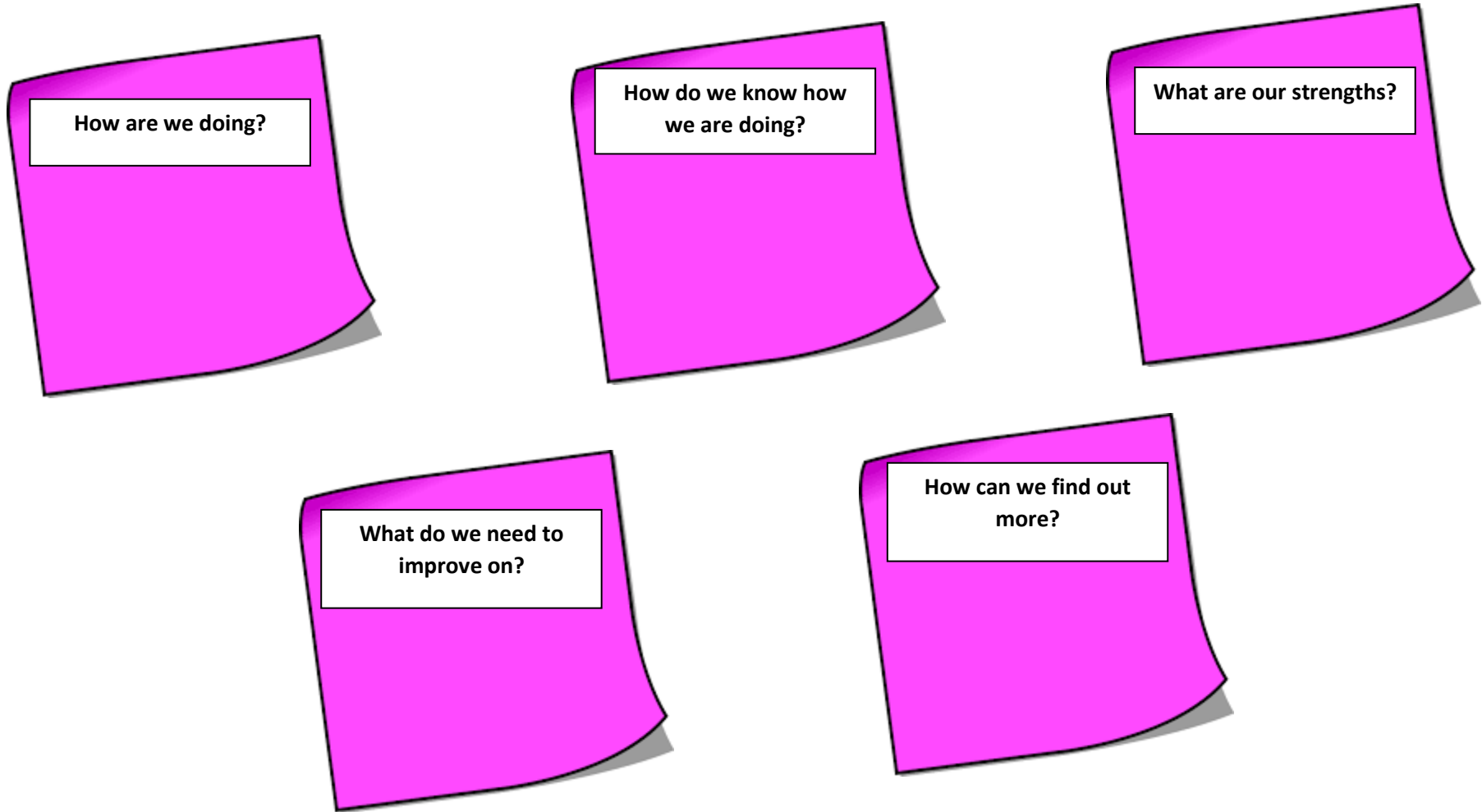


What do we need to improve on?



How can we find out more?

Leadership and Management: Developing Leadership Capacity?



Step 2.

Gathering Evidence

Templates found on:

<http://schoolself-evaluation.ie/primary/resources/gathering-evidence/>

Evidence from
Teachers and
School Leaders

Evidence
from Pupils

Evidence from
Parents

Evidence from
Other Sources

Sample checklist for evaluation of Communication and Literacy

In accordance with their level of development and ability:

Knowledge and skills

Students listen attentively and with understanding

Pupils communicate clearly and confidently orally and in writing, use an expansive vocabulary, and are fluent and explicit in communicating ideas and experiences

Pupils read a variety of texts, including print and digital media, with fluency and understanding using a range of word identification and comprehension strategies

Pupils write fluently and legibly in a variety of genres for a range of audiences and have an appropriate standard of spelling, grammar, syntax and punctuation

The overall attainment of the pupils in relation to each of the following aspects of literacy is improving or remains at a high standard in accordance with the learning outcomes of the Level 2 Learning Programmes:

Attainment trends

Speaking appropriately for a variety of purposes and demonstrating attentiveness as a listener

Using non-verbal behaviour to get the message across

Reading to obtain basic information

Using a range of writing forms to express opinions

Using expressive arts to communicate

Using suitable technologies for a range of purposes

Pupils, including those at risk of underachieving are attaining well in accordance with their ability and make very good progress from their prior levels of achievement

Norms/Targets

Improvement/progression is noted through standardised test results (where available)

The literacy learning targets set out in the school improvement plan have been achieved

Pupils display positive attitudes to listening and speaking

Attitudes/dispositions

Pupils have a love of and interest in reading

Pupils use their literacy skills confidently in their learning of all curriculum areas

Pupils are motivated to use their listening, oral, reading and writing skills for learning and communication

Sample Checklist: Assessment of L2LP and SSE

Assessment of students' work	Yes	No	Comment
A whole-school policy on assessment appropriate to the curriculum and our students has been developed and is implemented consistently			
The whole-school assessment policy ensures the assessment calendar is organised to maximise the manageability and impact of assessment events			
The policy provides for the assessment of skills and non-written work			
Teachers have collectively developed a common approach to the use of oral and written feedback to students			
Feedback is managed effectively and provided for students in a timely fashion			
Teachers design and prepare in advance learning tasks suited to the learning intentions identified for a lesson or series of lessons			
Students' work, including homework, is assessed for formative and summative purposes as appropriate			
Feedback is clear, specific and leads to actions on the part of the student			
Teachers plan for assessing all aspects of student learning using a variety of modes of assessment			
Teachers assessment practices assess knowledge, skills and student dispositions			
Students are explicitly taught the skills of self and peer assessment			
The assessment policy indicates how the results of assessments should be analysed and used			
There is clear guidance on how assessment information should be communicated to pupils and parents			

Sample checklist for evaluation of Numeracy

In accordance with their level of development and ability:

Knowledge and skills

Pupils have an understanding of mathematical concepts and processes in all five strands of the curriculum; number, algebra, shape and space, measures and data

Pupils use mathematical language effectively, accurately and consistently throughout the school

Pupils have a proficiency in fundamental mathematical skills and in recalling basic number facts

Pupils have developed a range of problem-solving strategies and are able to use and apply mathematical concepts and processes in order to plan and implement solutions to problems in a variety of contexts

The overall attainment of the pupils with regard to each of the following aspects of numeracy is improving or remains at a high standard in accordance with the learning outcomes of the Level 2 Learning Programmes:

Attainment trends

Managing money

Developing an awareness of number

Developing an awareness of temperature

Developing an awareness of weight and capacity

Using a calculator

Developing spatial awareness

Using data for a range of different purposes

Using shapes

Developing an awareness of time

Pupils, including those at risk of underachieving are attaining well, in accordance with their ability, and make very good progress from their prior levels of achievement

Comparison with norms

Improvement/progression is noted through standardised test results (where available)

The numeracy learning targets set out in the school improvement plan have been achieved

Attitudes/dispositions

Pupils have a positive attitude towards numeracy/Mathematics and have an appreciation of its practical and aesthetic aspects

Pupils enjoy using their numeracy skills both within discrete lessons and in integrated settings

Pupils are motivated to use their numeracy skills for learning

Sample Checklist: Subject Planning

Subject planning	Yes	No	Comment
Common subject plans with links to Level 2 Learning Outcomes have been devised and written			
Expected learning outcomes are set out in written plans			
Individual planning is linked to the subject plan and or L2LP and incorporates learning intentions developed to address students' learning needs			
Individual teacher planning incorporates teaching and learning approaches that are clearly linked to expected learning intentions			
Timeframes are suggested for teaching various elements of the subject across the subject department			
There are links made between statements of learning, key skills and learning outcomes			
Links with other subjects/base class to support the consistent development of students' key skills are incorporated in the subject plan			
The subject assessment policy is consistent with the whole-school assessment policy			
The subject assessment policy incorporates formative and summative assessment practices			
Written plans for assessment and the gathering of evidence align with planned student learning			
The plan incorporates opportunities for regular collective review of student work where teachers share professional practice			

Recording and Reporting of student progress	Yes	No	Comment
Comprehensive records of students' learning have been collectively developed that are clear, useful and easy to share			
Students' progress and achievement is communicated clearly to their homes			
A portfolio of the students' work is created and managed by all teachers and student themselves			

Sample Checklist: Teacher Planning

Teachers Planning Checklist	Yes	No	Comment
Long-term plans are prepared			
Short-term plans are prepared			
Written plans clearly indicate the expected learning outcomes			
The expected learning outcomes are clear, curriculum-based and differentiated as necessary to cater for the varying learning needs and abilities of pupils in the classroom			
There are specific expected learning outcomes for the development of literacy skills across all curriculum areas			
There are specific expected learning outcomes for the development of numeracy skills across all curriculum areas			
Written plans clearly indicate the teaching approaches, resources and activities that will facilitate the achievement of the expected learning outcomes			
Written plans clearly indicate how the pupils' learning is going to be assessed			
The written plans for assessment are in keeping with the L2LP and NCCA guidelines			
The written plans for assessment are in keeping with the National Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy, <i>Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life</i>			

Sample Checklist: Assessment

Assessment of students' work	Yes	No	Comment
A whole-school policy on assessment appropriate to the curriculum and our students has been developed and is implemented consistently			
The whole-school assessment policy ensures the assessment calendar is organised to maximise the manageability and impact of assessment events			
Teachers have collectively developed a common approach to the use of oral and written feedback to students			
Feedback is managed effectively and provided for students in a timely fashion			
Teachers design and prepare in advance learning tasks suited to the learning intentions identified for a lesson or series of lessons			
Students' work, including homework, is assessed for formative and summative purposes as appropriate			
Feedback is clear, specific and leads to actions on the part of the student			
Teachers plan for assessing all aspects of student learning using a variety of modes of assessment			
Teachers assessment practices assess knowledge, skills and student dispositions			
Students are explicitly taught the skills of self and peer assessment			

School Name

School Self-Evaluation Questionnaire for Parents

Dear parents and guardians,

We are undertaking a self-evaluation of teaching and learning in the Level 2 Learning Programmes in our school. The views of parents are very important to us and can really help us. By giving us your views and opinions, we can continue to improve the learning of pupils in our school. The questionnaire should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. We would be very grateful if you would complete it and return it to the school before (insert date). Please note that you may complete the questionnaire anonymously and that all individual responses will be treated confidentially.

Thank you very much.

(Insert Principal's Name)

(Insert date)

Please circle the class that you child is in:

Primary 1

Primary 2

Primary 3

Secondary Green

Secondary Red

Secondary Orange

Secondary Blue

Secondary Yellow

Secondary Purple

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Don't know	Agree	Strongly agree
My child is doing well in the school					
I know what my child is doing in school i.e. programme/curriculum/subjects					
I am aware of the content of the Junior Cycle: Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs) that my child is following					
I have seen a marked improvement in my child's social, communication and independent life skills since starting the L2LPs					
I am happy with the amount of homework my child gets					
I would prefer more activity based homework					
Teaching and learning activities in my child's classroom appear to meet his/her needs					
The teacher regularly checks my child's work and provides feedback – written or orally					

The school/teachers listen and respond to my child's learning needs					
The school consults me if my child needs extra support					
I know I can ask to see my child's portfolio of evidence from 2 nd year of Junior Cycle					
I am aware that my child's work will be assessed by the school and his/her teachers					
School reports give me a good picture of how my child is doing					
I know that my child will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement after completing the L2LPs					
My child (dependent on needs and abilities) has access to Junior Cycle at Level 2 and Level 3					
My child feels more successful in school					

Any additional comments or suggestions

Sample Self Reflection Sheet – L2LPs in General

Aspect of Teaching and Learning: L2LPs in General	
Strengths	Why?
Areas for improvement	Why?
Priorities for action	Why?

Sample Self Reflection Sheet – L2LPs in Action

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THIS LESSON

PLU:

Element:

Learning Outcome(s):

Learning intentions/success

Activity/resources

Assessment: formative/summative

What worked well? Why?

What did not go according to plan? Why?

What will I do differently when teaching this lesson again or when using the same strategies?

Blank template for teaching and learning reflection / review / observation

Lesson Observation Schedule			
Year group	No of students	Date:	Teacher:
Subject:	Time:	Duration:	Observer:
<i>Areas to be observed (select relevant aspects of practice from the sample schedule)</i>		<i>Observation/comments</i>	
<i>Key points discussed:</i>			
<i>Signed (Teacher)</i>		<i>Signed (Observer)</i>	
<i>Date</i>		<i>Date</i>	

Interview Schedule on L2LPs

This schedule might be used with teachers in an evaluation of provision in Level 2 Learning Programmes. Schools should adapt the questions to suit their own context or the specific focus of their evaluation.

It could be used in evaluations that focuses on the any of the domains (learner outcomes, learner experience, teacher's individual practice, teachers' collective practice) within the dimension of teaching and learning.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: L2LPs			
<i>Teacher</i>		<i>Interviewer</i>	
<i>Teacher's class(es)</i>		<i>Date</i>	
Preparation: Have you had an opportunity to talk to pupils; examine their work, review school data, examine some current discourse and ideas on the topics (e.g. PDST and NCCA websites)			
CURRICULUM AREA: L2LPs			
How successfully do we teach L2LPs?			
What kind of school culture exists in relation to L2LPs?			
What aspects of provision are effective? What kinds of methodologies are we using?			
Are there any problem areas?			
How effective are we in teaching the Priority Learning Units of the L2LPs?			
<i>To what degree is there linkage across the various PLUs and Subjects/Projects?</i>			
How effective are we in developing knowledge, skills and competency related to Level 2? (Please see Grid of Level 2 Indicators) Are there any difficulties?			
How can we improve the teaching and learning of these skills?			
Does our assessment of L2LPs help us to improve teaching and learning?			
To what degree do we use assessment for learning and pupil self-assessment?			
What links have we established with the home in developing L2LPs?			
How well are we catering for pupils with other needs? Level 1 and Level 3			
What resources are we using to teach L2LPs? How well are we using resources to support teaching and learning?			
How are we using ICT in the teaching and learning of L2LPs?			
What changes should we consider regarding how we teach L2LPs? What action can we take?			

	<i>Level 2 - Indicators</i>
Knowledge Breadth	Knowledge that is narrow in range
Knowledge Kind	Concrete in reference and basic in comprehension
Know-how and skill Range	Demonstrate limited range of basic practical skills, including the use of relevant tools
Know-how and skill Selectivity	Perform a sequence of routine tasks given clear direction
Competence Context	Act in a limited range of predictable and structured contexts
Competence Role	Act in a range of roles under direction
Competence Learning to Learn	Learn to learn in a disciplined manner in a well-structured and supervised environment
Competence Insight	Demonstrate awareness of independent role for self

Step 3.

Analysing Using Statements of Practice

The statements of practice – teaching and learning

DOMAIN 1: LEARNER OUTCOMES

STANDARDS	STATEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE	STATEMENTS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners	<p>Pupils' enjoyment in learning is evident and is often linked to a sense of making progress and of achievement. Their engagement with learning contributes to their sense of well-being.</p> <p>Pupils are motivated to learn, and this is often linked to having a clear sense of attainable learning outcomes.</p> <p>Pupils see themselves as learners and demonstrate this in their positive approach to classwork and homework.</p>	<p>Pupils' enjoyment in learning is evident and arises from a sense of making progress and of achievement. Their engagement with learning contributes to their sense of well-being.</p> <p>Pupils are motivated to learn through having a clear sense of attainable and challenging learning outcomes.</p> <p>Pupils see themselves as learners and demonstrate this in their positive and reflective approach to classwork and homework.</p>
Pupils have the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes required to understand themselves and their relationships	<p>Pupils demonstrate a knowledge, appropriate to their stage of development, of their own behaviour as individuals and as members of a group. They can apply this knowledge to manage situations and to support their well-being.</p> <p>Pupils have the skills to modify and adapt their behaviour when required.</p> <p>Pupils demonstrate an enquiring attitude towards themselves and those around them.</p>	<p>Pupils demonstrate a knowledge, appropriate to their stage of development, of their own behaviour as individuals and as members of a group. They apply this knowledge thoughtfully to manage situations and to support their well-being.</p> <p>Pupils have the skills to modify and adapt their behaviour when required, and recognise the need to do so themselves.</p> <p>Pupils demonstrate an enquiring and open-minded attitude towards themselves and those around them.</p>
Pupils demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding required by the primary curriculum	<p>Pupils' subject-specific skills and attitudes are developed in accordance with the Primary School Curriculum.</p> <p>The pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding for the specific subjects of the curriculum are at a good standard in accordance with the objectives, skills and concepts of the Primary School Curriculum.</p> <p>The overall attainment of the pupils is improving or is at a good standard in accordance with the objectives and skills of the Primary School Curriculum.</p>	<p>Pupils' subject-specific skills and attitudes are developed in accordance with the Primary School Curriculum.</p> <p>The pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding for the specific subjects of the curriculum are at a very good standard in accordance with the objectives, skills and concepts of the Primary School Curriculum.</p> <p>The overall attainment of the pupils is improving or is at a very good standard in accordance with the objectives and skills of the Primary School Curriculum.</p>

Found at:

http://schoolself-evaluation.ie/primary/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/08/Looking-at-Our-School-2016-A-Quality-Framework-for-Primary-Schools_English_WEB.pdf

Step 4.

Reporting

[School name] Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

1. Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our last improvement plan, the findings of this self-evaluation, and our current improvement plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

1.1 Outcomes of our last improvement plan from [date] to [date]

-
-

1.2 The focus of this evaluation

We undertook self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the period (*month/year*) to (*month/year*). We evaluated the following aspect(s) of teaching and learning:

-
-

2. Findings

2.1 This is effective / very effective practice in our school

List the main strengths of the school in teaching and learning.

-
-
-

2.2. This is how we know

List the evidence sources. Refer to pupils' dispositions, attainment, knowledge and skills.

-
-

2.3 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our practice further

Specify the aspects of teaching and learning the school has identified and prioritised for further improvement.

-
-
-

3. Our improvement plan

On the next page, we have recorded:

- The **targets** for improvement we have set
- The **actions** we will implement to achieve these
- **Who is responsible** for implementing, monitoring and reviewing our improvement plan
- How we will measure **progress** and check **outcomes** (criteria for success)

As we implement our improvement plan we will record:

- The **progress** made, and **adjustments** made, and **when** **Achievement of targets** (original and modified), and **when**

