

## **St Pius X Boys' School**

### **School Self-Evaluation Report - Oral Language**

#### **The Focus of the Evaluation**

Oral Language was deemed an appropriate progression of our school's self-evaluation process following on from our focus on genre writing and maths language in previous improvement plans. Also, as the oral language component of the Primary Language Curriculum is being rolled out and all teachers have received training in this area, it made sense to use the SSE process to implement it. A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in oral language was undertaken during the school year 2017/18.

#### **Summary of School Self-Evaluation Findings**

##### **Our School Strengths in Relation to Teaching and Learning in Oral Language:**

- Overall, teachers feel that Oral Language is being taught effectively in our school. From teacher observation and discussion in pupil focus groups, children display a positive attitude and interest towards oral language and almost all children discuss events with their parents on a regular basis.
- The introduction of Aistear has greatly benefitted the students in the area of oral language. Socio-dramatic play has also been very inclusive and beneficial.
- Teachers have observed that pupils have a good vocabulary range and this is confirmed in the boys' achievement in standardised tests.
- The pupils have good expressive language and communication skills and display a good ability to recall and sequence stories. While children are achieving within the milestones of sentence structure and grammar, more children could be elaborating and using extended sentences and clauses more extensively.
- All teachers have attended training on the Primary language Curriculum. All teachers model good language and use a variety of strategies to observe and assess language.
- All teachers link oral language to other subject areas. Teachers plan and teach discrete oral language lessons on a weekly basis. Many teachers, particularly in junior classes, give some oral language as homework.

##### **School Improvement Plan:**

- Develop a shared, whole-school approach to the assessment of pupil skills and achievements in oral language in English.
- Ensure teachers are preparing for teaching oral language using the Primary Language Curriculum in English and that they broaden the range of teaching approaches used during language lessons to make learning more skill focused. The use of higher order questions and critical thinking will be included on a regular basis.