



Gaelscoil Naomh Pádraig

School Self Evaluation Action Plan

Action Plan - English

Objectives:

- To raise the standard of English spelling in the school
- To alter teacher and pupils attitudes in how we approach the teaching of spelling
- To steer the focus away from the traditional way in which spellings are taught to one where the focus is on visual and sound patterns and word study.

The Words Their Way Spelling Programme adopts a word study approach to spelling, which moves away from the traditional system of spelling teaching, instead emphasising the value of teaching students processes and strategies for examining and thinking about the words they spell, read and write. Based on assessment results, students are given words to study in order to discover the common attributes. In this way, students are actively constructing their own knowledge of spelling patterns. Students work individually, with partners, and in small groups to encourage co-operative learning.

Actions 2019-2020

- Words Their Way will be introduced and piloted in Rang 4.
- A test to assess where the children start will be administered.
- A starting point will be chosen for the 4th class groups in order to start the programme
- There will no longer be an English test on a Wednesday and a Friday based on English spellings.
- Informal spelling checks can take place either before or after introducing a new word sort.
- A follow up test will be administered in the final term to determine progress.
- Lessons should take place 4 times a week for a minimum of 10 minutes.
- The first lesson will take longer.

During the Lesson

1. The pupils will get a sheet with the sounds and words that they are to focus on.
2. They cut them out and say the words in a 'YOU SORT'
3. This is followed by a SPEED SORT where they say the words in competition with their partner.
4. Now they are ready to sort the words according to their spelling patterns and sounds: PATTERN SORT
5. Once this has been done and presented by the teacher on the whiteboard the words are discussed for meaning, homophones etc.
6. The words are written into their **Words Their Way** copies.
7. The pupils add to their lists for homework as they come upon new words based on the spelling patterns.
8. Once the children are familiar with the words, sounds and patterns they do a BLIND SORT. This is where the child listens to the word but can't see it and says which pattern it belongs to.
9. The final sort is an OPEN SORT, where the children categorise the words according to different criteria; nouns, verbs, things you eat etc.

NB: Lessons are interactive and adopts a word study approach to spelling.
Action Plan 2020-2021

- Multiple copies of ***Words Their Way*** at all levels to be ordered.
- The children who are studying ***Words Their Way*** will no longer have a spelling workbook.
- Rang 3, 4 agus 5 will adopt ***Words Their Way***.
- A decision has been made among the teachers to introduce the programme based on the median score of the class except in exceptional circumstances. Once the teachers and pupils have experience of how the programme works a more tailored approach will be used to target the spelling level of smaller groups.
- A spelling inventory will be administered to all pupils to ascertain the starting point for each class.
- Children will be sorted into groups based on their attainment in the spelling inventory.
- The plan leader and class teachers will team teach to implement ***Words Their Way*** until the programme is up and running in each class.
- A second spelling inventory assessment will be administered in the final term to ascertain progress.

Review

Class practice to be discussed and reviewed once a term at staff meeting or Literacy sub committees.

Key questions/points to consider:

- Did we manage to achieve our goals?
- Is there an overall improvement in the pupils free writing?
- Are there any changes we need to make?

Action Plan 2021-2022

- A spelling inventory will be administered to all pupils to ascertain the starting point for each class.
- Children will be sorted into groups based on their attainment in the spelling inventory.
- **Words Their Way** will now be fully implemented throughout the school from 3rd class to 5th class.
- A second spelling inventory assessment will be administered in the final term to ascertain progress.

Review

Class practice to be discussed and reviewed once a term at staff meeting or Literacy sub committees.

Key questions/points to consider:

- Did we manage to achieve our goals?
- Is there an overall improvement in the pupils free writing?
- Are there any changes we need to make?

Learning Support Teachers support the children with additional needs with **Words Their Way**.

Action Plan 2022-2023

- The programme will be introduced to second class. All groups throughout the school from 2nd to 6th will be engaging with **Words Their Way**.
- From September 2022 all classes will be introducing a levelled approach to **Words Their Way** as children are grouped according to ability.

Review

Class practice to be discussed once a term at staff meeting or Literacy sub committees.

Key questions/points to consider:

- Did we manage to achieve our goals?
- Is there an overall improvement in the pupils free writing?
- Are there any changes we need to make?

NB: Learning Support Teachers support the children with additional needs with ***Words Their Way***.