Two workshops (1 x literacy and 1 x numeracy) with an optional drop-in session. The workshops focused on developing, creating and sharing a range of assessment resources for teachers’ classroom use in supporting assessment, literacy and numeracy practices within their school. All materials were shared with participants by means of an online resource site.

http://galwayassessment.weebly.com

The site had 40 unique visitors with 185 pageviews in April and May of 2015.

NATURE OF WORK

We, as a team, developed a bank of practical assessment based tools and resources with a literacy and numeracy focus which teachers or school leaders could use across all primary classes. We then offered these as a suite of workshops focusing on assessment of primary literacy and numeracy. The focus of these sessions was on the practical use of standardised assessments, self-assessment and assessment for learning.

The first workshop was assessment and literacy and the second was assessment and numeracy.

Both workshops focused on:
- Use of assessment strategies as part of the data gathering phase of the School self-evaluation process.
- How to effectively use analyses of standardised tests to inform teaching and learning at whole school and individual class level
- Use of a selection of effective assessment tools for reading and writing such as rubrics, reading fluency probe and assessment checklists.
- Development of a whole school assessment procedures and policy.

Participants were welcome to attend one or both workshops and were also invited to register and attend a drop-in clinic in the education centre where all advisors involved were available to deal with individual queries.

Drop-in Clinic:

This session is designed as an individual support session for those who have attended one or both of the assessment workshops. During this session a number of PDST advisors will be available to answer any queries that you may have including:
- Literacy and numeracy school self-evaluation
- Administering standardised tests
- Analysing standardised test results
- Implementing literacy/numeryacy programmes
- ICT for teaching and learning
- Reading intervention programmes

RATIONAL FOR THE PROJECT

Feedback from the participants included comments like:
'I attended the numeracy assessment workshop and found it useful. I love when I can find easy to implement ideas that I can bring back to the staff. I love the structure of PDST workshops and I look forward to attending more in the future. Thank you!!!'
AM Griffin, Renmore NS

'I found the workshop very informative, very well presented & practical'
D Nic Con Iomaire, Gaelscoil Mic Amhlaigh

KEY ACTIVITIES INVOLVED

The following were the key activities involved in WORKSHOP 1:
- Input and discussion on AfL and AoL
- The NCCA Assessment Continuum
- Analysis of Drumcondra and Micra-T standardised assessment booklets and manuals
- Interpreting and analysing standardised test results - participants were provided with the opportunity to work with real data from schools.
- Focus on the gaps in standardised assessment and exploring assessment tools to supplement this
- Reading fluency probe
- Writing prompt sheet

The following were the key activities involved in WORKSHOP 2:
- Distinguishing features of AfL and AoL
- Introduction to course website and adjoining resources for participants
- Reflection on current practice in assessment through numeracy
- The NCCA Assessment Continuum
- Group activities on developing problem solving tasks, materials and mathematical language.
- Extending problem solving and assessment through mathematical writing and journaling.
- Using the Frayer Model in Irish classrooms as well as developing the use of concrete materials to develop and assess mental maths.
- Interpreting and analysing standardised test results - participants were provided with the opportunity to work with real data from schools.
- Opportunity to reflect on levels of assessment in your school, moving from individual to class and whole school approaches in numeracy. Discussion and planning activity related to how these steps inform areas for improvement and the process of ongoing school self-evaluation in numeracy.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS INVOLVED

Workshop one had 15 participants. Workshop two had 12 participants. Our drop in clinics catered for 10 participants so overall 37 participants in total over the duration of the project in Galway EC.

PDST / GALWAY Education Centre Project 2014/2015