



SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022/23

In the 2022/23 school year, as our School-Self-Evaluation (SSE) initiative, we have looked at **peer-observation**. We can report:

35 teachers volunteered to observe another teacher's class as a means of improving teaching and learning. These teachers were also asked to sit down one-to-one with another teacher within or outside their own faculty to discuss methodologies.

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better:

Teachers were interviewed twice during the year – in December and March – to ascertain feedback. These reflections were collated and communicated to all staff.

At the end of the school year these teachers were surveyed to see if peer observation has made a difference – to teacher's teaching practice, and more importantly, to student's learning.

Survey results:

~ 80% of responses from participating teachers felt it made a positive contribution to their teaching.

~ 70% of these teachers are keen to maintain the peer-observation habit next year.

This is what we are now going to work on:

Having completed this initiative the aim is to make this an ordinary part of the teaching experience. Teachers will be encouraged to continue to observe another teacher's class, and to collaborate on ways to teach more effectively.

The next step in our school-self-evaluation journey for 2023/24 will concentrate on **students' well-being**.

This is what you can do to help:

Encourage your son(s) to:

~ participate actively in all well-being classes and initiatives.

~ be conscious of the need to manage and maintain their own well-being in their adolescent life, and beyond it into their adult life.

~ be open to talking about their well-being with someone they trust.

Here is some information about how we are carrying out our work and about what the Department of Education and Skills requires us to do.

School time and holidays

The Department of Education requires all post-primary schools to have **166 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**. This year we had 166 school days, from 30th August 2022 to 2nd June 2023. Our school week is 28 hours.

The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**.

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time. **YES**

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**. This year we had **six parent/teacher** meetings and **seven staff meetings**, all in line with the Dept's regulations.

Looking after the children in our school

The Department requires schools to follow the *Child Protection Procedures* it has set down. Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this. **YES**

All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them. **YES**

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Philip Wallace, principal**
and our Deputy DLP is: **Anne Hegarty, deputy principal**

Enrolment and attendance

The Department requires schools to have and publish an admissions policy, to record and report attendance accurately, and to encourage high attendance and participation.

We have an admissions policy and it is published. **YES**

We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on: Jan. 2023

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required. **YES**

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- Students are expected to attend all school days (bar sickness and important family occasions).
- Year-heads and the pastoral care team will liaise with students and their parent(s) where a difficulty emerges. The aim to resolve any issue and to ensure that the student is happy to return to school.

This is how you can help:

- Parents are asked to keep absences to a minimum.
- Students should get used to the idea that school attendance is mandatory, not optional.
- Where a parent notices signs of unease they should contact the year-head to attempt to pre-empt any difficulties that might disrupt their son's education.

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour, and asks us to consult parents and students about it. We do this. **YES**

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour. **YES**

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school. **YES**

Completed by Paul Hyland, 11th May 2023



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