



## OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school, to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:**

An improvement in students' ability to engage with problem solving strategies. This is as a result of increased focus on problem solving strategies across all subject areas.

Teaching pedagogies have improved as a result of internal CPD, Teach Meets.

An increase in the number of students correcting their own work for mistakes as a result of engaging with correction codes, CUPS and formative feedback.

An increase in the number of students on our school's academic excellence Dean's list. This is as a result of the positive classroom environments, improved teaching methodologies, greater emphasis on keywords, greater engagement with homework activities and supervised study.

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

1. Student, parents/guardians and staff questionnaires
2. Student focus groups
3. Classroom observations
4. VSWare tracking

**This is what we are now going to work on:**

Student literacy with a particular focus on reading on pleasure

Student numeracy with a particular focus on basic mental calculation strategies and numeracy fluency

Student uptake in higher level subjects at Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle

**This is what you can do to help:**

Make education important in your home and let your child know it is not okay to miss school.

Encourage your son/daughter to read any material of interest to them.

Provide opportunities for your son/daughter to read for pleasure.

Provide relevant reading material for your son/daughter.

Help your son/daughter with homework activities, if necessary.

Ensure your son/daughter engages with homework activities.

Monitor your son/daughters homework.

Communicate any concerns you may have with the school, via your son/daughter's Year Head.

Encourage your son/daughter to strive for excellence.

Encourage your son/daughter to participate in curricular activities such as supervised study, homework clubs, SUMs Maths Drop in Centre etc.

## **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 requires all post-primary schools to have 167 school days each year, and a 28-hour school week.

This year we had 167 school days, from Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021. 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 5 parent/teacher meetings and 6 staff meetings, all in line with the Department'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 John David Kearney and our Deputy DLP is Maeve Waldron

### ***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: **21 Sept 2020**

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

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- Excellent attendance awards
- Monitoring of student attendance and make relevant referrals when required
- Communication with parents/guardians through HSCL, Year Heads, attendance officers and senior school management
- Parental access to VSware communications package
- Parental attendance reports
- Positive school climate

- Resilience programmes

This is how you can help:

1. Make education important in your home and let your child know it is not okay to miss school.
2. Listen to your child. Be interested in his or her news about school and ask about what he or she is doing.
3. Help your child to be proud of a good attendance record.
4. Build your child's confidence by praising him or her when he or she does well.
5. Read letters and reports from the school and know the school rules.
6. Go to school meetings and get to know the teachers, staff and your child's friends.
7. Don't take family holidays during school term.
8. Be alert for reasons why your child may not want to go to school. If your child finds schoolwork hard, talk to the school right away.
9. Encourage your child not to take on a part-time job during school term. A tired teenager will not be able to keep up at school.

### ***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**