St Clare's Comprehensive School

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:

Strengths from SIP

Literacy

- Use of Keywords for junior students.
- Literacy reminder posters in all classrooms highlighting 2022/2023 targets, keyword and common page layout.
- High percentage of students taking higher level papers at junior and senior cycle.
- A common approach to the promotion of literacy across all subject departments.
- All English teachers give common tests for in-house exams.
- Promotion of world book day.

Numeracy

- Numeracy posters are displayed outside classrooms to highlight numeracy in that particular subject.
- Numeracy reminder posters in all classrooms highlighting 2022/2023 targets. SALT, calculating students' own percentage and graphing test results in students' journals.
- Graph paper and sections for each subject provided in the students journal to graph results.
- All Maths teachers give common tests for in-house exams.
- The uptake of Higher-level maths in Leaving Cert is increasing every year.
- All students who took the Higher Level Leaving Cert maths paper in 2022 passed the exam.

- Introduction of a Common Cover Sheet for all in-house exams to be trialed with first years this year to ensure consistent approach to calculating percentages.
- Maths week used to promote numeracy.

Active teaching

- Students enjoy active learning and this was not possible for an extended period due to Covid restrictions. For this reason, there was a need to focus on this area post-Covid.

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

Staff and students were surveyed.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Yr students were surveyed on numeracy and literacy to gather data on past numeracy and literacy targets and to assess post covid if these targets were still relevant or needed to be updated. A focus group of staff was used to gauge staff opinion on past numeracy and literacy targets. All students were surveyed on teaching practice in our school. The staff were also surveyed on their teaching practice.

This is what we are now going to work on:

The targets set for this year were a reset post covid for staff and students.

Numeracy: Salt graphing technique, Results tracker, % calculator and test cover sheet introduced for 1st years

Literacy: Page layout, Keywords in each subject

Active teaching methods: Use of active teaching methods in classes and classroom layout to be changed to facilitate group work.

This is what you can do to help:

Promote good attendance at school.

Be aware of our targets for 2022-2023.

Promote the importance of the school journal and check on a regular basis.

Have a conversation with your child to monitor their progress.

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 **166 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**.
The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**.
This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time.   YES / NO

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**.
This year we had parent/teacher meetings and 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 / NO
All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told
all parents about them and how we follow them.   YES / NO
Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Maeve Kelly

and our Deputy DLP is   Ceola Mc Gowan

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.   YES / NO

The school has appropriate initiatives in place to promote a positive and inclusive school culture and environment.

The schools Anti Bullying Policy is published on the schools website.

A positive school culture is pivotally important for the prevention of bullying behaviour and the provision of a safe environment for learners who are supported and affirmed in their holistic development. Creating and maintaining such a culture is the responsibility of every member of the St. Clare's school community and is central to the ethos of our school. The Board recognises the need for all students to have a stable and secure learning environment in order for them to achieve their maximum potential.

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 / NO
We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on: Jan 2023

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.   YES / NO

Attendance

St Clare's Comprehensive School realises the positive impact high levels of attendance has on teaching and learning outcomes for students. The school recognises the link between good attendance, student engagement and school completion. As per the schools attendance strategy the following targets have been set.

1. ATTENDANCE : To Reduce the % of students absent 20 or more days from 9% (46) to 8% (41) from 2022 -2023.

2. ATTENDANCE : To achieve an attendance rate of 94% per class/tutor group.

·   To support strategies & programmes aimed at preventing absenteeism.-

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

The introduction of the Unique App in 2022 should aid the monitoring of Attendance and increase communication between home and school and improve record keeping.

Attendance will be monitored daily by the class tutors and year heads. The introduction of 'Check & Connect' should aid this by the use of accurate records and daily contact.

This is how you can help: Encourage good attendance and ask for support if required.

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 / NO

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour.   YES / NO

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.   YES / NO