



St. Michael's School

OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Year: 2024

In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. Through this evaluation process, we identified areas of effective / very effective practice in our school:

Assessment

- Formal assessments to inform planning
- Pupil self – assessment strategies used in classes
- Teacher designed assessment documents
- Use of photographic and video evidence
- IEP document, targets and assessments

Wellbeing

- Positive feedback received in relation to the health and wellbeing of the students in the school.
- Majority of parents indicated that the school provides a safe, welcoming and accessible environment for all and is committed to supporting the children, promoting a healthy lifestyle, providing effective communication and respecting confidentiality.
- 100% of staff expressed that the school environment is used to display student's work, talents and celebrates their achievements.
- Majority of stakeholders feel supported in the area of Wellbeing.
- High levels of student attendance, access to extra-curricular activities and successful completion of learning programmes.
- All classes receive SPHE weekly.
- Participation in Special Olympics sporting events has a profound impact on student wellbeing.
- Feedback indicates the introduction of whole school swimming lessons as part of the school curriculum has increased levels of confidence and enjoyment thereby supporting students' wellbeing.

Literacy

- Whole school themed approach to vocabulary enrichment has been successfully embedded in school practice
- Use of a wide variety of teaching methodologies and approaches for literacy
- High level of CPD completed by all staff
- Excellent staff collaboration in planning
- Use of graded reading scheme at primary level and age-appropriate interactive reading scheme at post primary level
- The use of sensory stories to build literacy skills
- A consistent approach to the teaching, tracking and monitoring of handwriting

- Whole school approach to a print rich environment
- The consistent use of visual and object schedules throughout the school

Digital Strategy

- A whole school approach and commitment to the effective and highly effective use of digital technologies in teaching and learning
- Pupils can access appropriate digital technologies to improve learning outcomes across the curriculum
- Pupils are supported in their learning with the use of the Internet and social media in a supervised and safe manner that is age appropriate.
- Teachers engage in continuing professional development and work with colleagues to help them select and align digital technologies with effective teaching strategies to expand learning opportunities for all pupils.
- The introduction of the school data system, Aladdin has proven to be very effective in managing the organisation.
- There is evidence in the school of more student and teacher use of a wide range of digital technologies for teaching, learning and assessment.
- The use of Seesaw which was introduced post covid continues to be used very effectively as a means of communicating with parents and maintaining evidence of student work.
- The development of a new school website www.stmcr.ie continues to promote our school in a positive and informative way.

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

- Teachers monitored current practice and noted areas for improvement
- Student Feedback
- Parental Feedback
- Surveys conducted
- Collaborative Review of Teacher practice
- SNA reflective practice
- Review of Planning

We discussed current practice, noted areas for improvement and this is now what we are going to work on:

Assessment:

To develop a whole school approach to formal assessment, record keeping and pupil attainment in our school.

Wellbeing:

To develop a whole school system and structure to support student and staff wellbeing.

To improve the school's physical environment, providing areas for recreation, relaxation, physical activities and sensory stimulation.

Literacy:

To improve the acquisition of reading skills and develop a whole school systematic approach to handwriting.

Digital Strategy:

To improve accessible IT resources throughout the school.

To enhance teaching and learning through the use of IT across all classes.

To introduce new and effective structures in our school to promote communication and manage data.

This is what you can do to help:

Continue to liaise with class teachers via Seesaw and provide relevant feedback

Continue to encourage positive attitudes towards school

Continue to promote independence and encourage communication

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 primary schools to have **182 school days** each year.

This year we had **180** school days, from **01/09/23 to 25/06/24**.

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

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

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 ***Bernadette Finnerty***

and our Deputy DLP is ***Jacinta Connellan***

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: **20.12.22**

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

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: ***As per DES guidelines***

This is how you can help: ***Encourage positive attitudes towards school***

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour and asks us to consult parents and children 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**