



Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey

School Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan 2023/'24

1. Introduction

1.1 This document records the outcomes of our last improvement plan, the findings of this self-evaluation, and our current improvement plan, including targets.

1.2 In Circular 0056/2022 the steps to be taken in the third cycle of School Self Evaluation are outlined, ('Next Steps September 2022-June 2026'). This cycle comprises a 'Review Year' in 2022/'23 during which the school was required to identify and reflect upon the impact of Covid 19 on our *'students' educational experiences and outcomes, their wellbeing, their motivation to learn, and their engagement in learning'*.

2. Outcomes of the Review Year 2022/'23

2.1 **Our Focus from Looking at Our Schools 2022 in this Review Year was:**

→ **Standard:** *'Students experience opportunities to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning'.*

(Domain 2, Standard 4)

→ **Statement of Highly Effective Practice:** *'Students can explain the key skills underpinning the curriculum and understand their relevance to present and future learning'.*

2.2 We undertook an analysis of our Second Year cohort's Junior Cycle experience to date with a focus on four key areas:

- Key Skills
- Digital Learning
- Assessment
- Wellbeing

2.3 To this end the Senior Management Team administered a number of multifaceted surveys to students, staff and parents over the course of the year.

2.3 The Senior Management Team engaged the support of the Department of Education Inspectorate by applying for and receiving an advisory session with the SSE Inspector for the region.

2.5 The Teaching and Learning Committee developed a variety of teaching strategies in relation to the four key areas to be implemented in 2023/'24.

3. The Focus of this Evaluation

3.1 During the academic year 2023/'24 we are focusing on the following targets based on the 'Looking at Our School, 2022 Framework':

- ➔ **Standard:** *'Students reflect on their progress as learners and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning'.*
(Domain 2, Standard 3)

4. Our School Improvement Targets 2023/'24

- To assess the Key Skills at the end of each lesson through the use of the 'Key Skills Segment Poster' we developed.
- To encourage students to reflect on their engagement with the Key Skills on a weekly basis through our customised school journal.

- To develop Digital Competencies through a greater engagement with the Apple Teacher Programme and Apple Teacher Portfolio.
- To embed the co-creation of success criteria as a teaching and learning strategy by offering staff CPD opportunities.
- To promote a 'Growth Mindset' within Junior Cycle through classroom displays, formative feedback and peer to peer information sessions with Prefects.
- To clearly display the methods by which students can access support in the school.
- To raise awareness about the significance of full attendance and the impact of full or partial absenteeism through a whole school attendance campaign entitled 'Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow'.

5. What Can Parents Do To Support SSE?

- Remind your daughter to reflect on the Key Skills at Junior Cycle in her customised journal.
- Review your daughter's 'Behaviour Tab' on Vsware and affirm her when she receives Merits from her teachers.
- Encourage your daughter to develop a 'Growth Mindset' by learning from mistakes in tests/homework.
- Review your daughter's reports and assessments with her affirming her progress and improvements.
- Request your daughter to assist you in digital tasks.
- Discuss the Student Support System with your daughter should she require it.
- Support the school in its Attendance Strategy.

Here is some information about how we are carrying out our work and about what the Department of Education 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**.

- This year we had **166 school days**, from 24th August 2023 to 31st June 2024. Our school week is **28 hours**.
- The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**.
- This year we took all of our school holidays within the permitted time. **Yes**
- The Department sets out arrangements for **Parent/Teacher Meetings and Staff Meetings**. This year we had **6 Parent/Teacher Meetings** and **4 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 have told all parents about them and how we follow them. **Yes**
- Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mr Robert Dunne**
- Our Deputy DLP is **Ms Gráinne Byrne**

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 encourage good attendance in the following ways:

- Attendance is monitored by Year Heads and Senior Management.
- We hold regular Assemblies.
- We have an Attendance Campaign entitled 'Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow'.

This is how you can help:

- Support our Attendance Strategy,
- Monitor your daughter's attendance via VShare.
- Discuss the significance of full attendance with your daughter.
- Ensure that your daughter attends school for the full day every day.

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**