



St. Fiacc's N.S.
Fírinne le Misneach

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS 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:

- We work in partnership with other schools in our community namely:
 - Our preschool Graiguecullen Childcare Centre and other feeder preschools.
 - All the second level schools that our pupils attend.
 - Other Primary schools in Carlow town with DEIS status.
 - Afterschools in Cill an Oir
 - Carlow IT for Science week and STEM Projects.
- We organise afterschool activities in: Guitar; Spanish; Film; Art & Craft; Choir; basketball.
- We run holiday programmes for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with additional needs in partnership with CRYIS (Carlow Regional Youth Service) and the Department of Education.
- We have effective links with over 30 local, regional and national organisations/services

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

- We reviewed our approach to partnerships with others with the staff.

This is what we are now going to work on:

- We will maintain our partnerships with all the organisations that support the pupils and parents of St. Fiacc's NS
- We will increase the involvement of children at risk of disadvantage in both "in school" and "out of school" activities.
- We will increase the number of children attending Cill an Oir afterschools service.
- We will increase the number of children who will receive small group support in programmes that address social skills and anxiety reduction in association with SCP (School Completion Programme).
- We will increase the number of "at risk" pupil participation with local sporting organisations through ensuring that they receive in school coaching in soccer and GAA.

This is what you can do to help:

- Continue to support your child's work at home and at school.
- Continue to read our newsletter and messages with school updates on after school activities
- Encourage your child to try out at the local soccer, swimming, GAA, athletics or other local sporting organisation
- Ensure that your phone has the Aladdin Connect app to access your child's data.
- Communicate with us if you have any concerns or queries
- Make sure that you attend any school related events regarding your child
- Complete any surveys we send from time to time; your opinions matter and read our DEIS plans on our website www.stfiaccsns.ie

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 school days, from August 31st to June 30th.

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.

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 Mr John Brennan and our Deputy DLP is Mr Pauric Bolton.

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 January 2023

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

YES

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- Awareness campaigns that promote good attendance and punctuality
- Weekly monitoring of pupil attendance
- Creating a positive school climate

This is how you can help:

- Know how many days your child has missed.
- Explain all absences through your Aladdin application
- Contact Miss Payne (HSCL) or Miss Kavanagh (attendance coordinator) if you have concerns around attendance.
- Early to bed on school nights.
- No screens on school mornings.
- Be organised from the night before.
- Return to school after appointments.
- Keep talking about the importance of going to school.
- Better late than never!
- Don't give your child a choice to stay at home.

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

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