



St. Fiacc's N.S.
Fírinne le Misneach

OUR TRANSITION 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:

6th Class

- Our 6th classes complete a transition programme facilitated by SCP (School Completion Programme).
- All our pupils are placed in Second Level Schools.
- All our secondary schools receive background information on our transferring pupils including their academic performance, strengths, challenges, likes/dislikes with parental consent. This is called the school passport.
- Children with complex additional needs can visit the secondary school that they will attend.

Preschool

- We hold an information meeting every April for the parents of incoming infants.
- We discuss the needs of incoming infants with their parents and caregivers from transferring preschool.
- We invite incoming infants to visit their classroom with their parents every June.

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

- We surveyed our 6th class pupils and parents on the transition to second level
- As a staff we reviewed our whole school approach to transition.

This is what we are now going to work on:

Preschool transition

- We will continue to ensure a smooth transition of pupils from pre-school to primary school as outlined above.

6th class transition

- Complete a transition programme in Term 3 in 6th class using the "Mind the Gap" workbook.
- Continue to ensure that all 6th class pupils receive a place at Secondary School.
- Reduce 6th class pupils' anxiety levels about transitioning to Second level.

This is what you can do to help:

- Help your child develop a homework routine in preparation for 1st year.
- Find out the support structures at your child's secondary school eg the first year Year Head.
- Discuss the range of first year subjects with your child and how to organise the locker so not every book comes home every day.
- Find out what digital platform your child will be using at second level eg Google Classroom.
- If possible encourage your child to try out an after school activity at their new school. This is a great way to make new friends.
- As always attendance matters especially in the first month.

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