



St. Fiacc's N.S.
Fírinne le Misneach

OUR RETENTION 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 have supports in place to ensure that all pupils complete 8 years at primary level. These supports include our Home School Community Liaison teacher (HSCL), our attendance coordinator, our School Completion Project worker and our Special Needs Coordinator.*
- *Our Care Needs team meets weekly to discuss children at risk of disadvantage and other vulnerable pupils.*
- *Strategies are in place for pupils to support transfer to second level such as:*
 - All 6th class pupils participate in a School Completion transition programme to prepare them for transfer.
 - Ensuring all pupils are offered a place at second level.
 - The Pupil passport is completed and forwarded to the transferring school.
 - Pupils on School Support Plus Files are discussed with link SEN of transferring school to ensure resources are put in place prior to the new school year.

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 school retention.
- As a staff we reviewed our whole school approach to retention.

This is what we are now going to work on:

- Maintaining the present 100% retention rate at Primary.
- Ensuring that all relationships in our school are respectful.
- Giving our pupils a space at the start of every week to build relationships and wellbeing using circles
- Using restorative practices when dealing with discipline issues to
- Monitoring poor attendees/vulnerable pupils on a weekly basis.
- Provide extra curricular activities to encourage children to come to school
- Provide support for pupils that need it as early as possible
- Avail of support from school completion project workers for small group work for targeted pupils

This is what you can do to help:

- Talk to your child about their day.
- Try to use some of the restorative questions at home to resolve challenging behaviour.
- Communicate with your school if you have concerns about your child's academic or social progress.
- If you are interested in volunteering at our school get in touch with Miss Payne our HSCL.
- If you are having difficulty getting your child to come to school, we can help you. School attendance is extremely important.

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