

Sandford Park School



Self-Evaluation Report and School Improvement Plan May 2022

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:

- Digital learning – embedded common platform of Teams and Microsoft Office, improved consistency of teacher experience relating to digital technology by provision of new smart screens and speakers in every classroom, improved the process and speed for getting issues resolved, developed a new Distance Learning Plan that is now part of our AUP
- Wellbeing – focused on anti-bullying, promoted good wellbeing in students and inclusion and cohesion in the student body. Nearly all students (>94%) are aware of the anti-bullying policy and how to report incidents of bullying. Over half of students rate their wellbeing as very good to excellent. Nearly all students got involved in at least two activities during Friendship Week and Stand-Up Awareness Week
- Literacy – nearly all students (93%) are confident in their use of capital letters, increased students' extracurricular reading, increased EAL students' understanding and communication skills in English
- Numeracy – increased student understanding of scale and measurement, nearly all students (>90%) have good understanding of scale and measurement for small objects but some still struggle with estimating long distances
- Individual classroom teaching and post Covid-19 return to teacher base classrooms which allowed more student interaction and student voice

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

- Surveys to staff, students, and parents
- Spoke to Student Council and PTA

This is what we are now going to work on:

- Wellbeing – Wellbeing workshops to be run for different year groups with a theme for each year to specifically focus on, Jigsaw program for One Good School, renewed focus on anti-bullying with emphasis on cyberbullying
- Digital learning - Reducing issues with students using mobile phones will be addressed in AUP updates this summer. Updating our device strategy in our new Digital Learning Plan

following the recent launch of the Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027. Improving the consistency of teachers' technology experience will be an on-going area of focus into next year, as it will inform work carried out in the A and B Block this summer.

- Continued emphasis on individual classroom teaching to focus on increased student interaction and student voice

This is what you can do to help:

- Discuss your child's education and progress with them
- Support the implementation of the school's uniform, attendance, code of behaviour, anti-bullying, and AUP policies
- Return forms of correspondence to the school and attend Parent-Teacher meetings

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 post-primary schools to have **166 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**.

This year we had **166** school days, from **25th August 2021** to **3rd June 2022**. Our school week is **28** hours.

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

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time. YES / ~~NO~~

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**.

This year we had **7** parent/teacher meetings and **7** staff/planning 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 **Edith Byrne**

and our Deputy DLP is **Shane Keogh**

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: September 2020

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

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: follow up on attendance with parents, recognize good attendance at prizegiving, encourage parents to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours and not to book holidays during term time

This is how you can help: make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours (e.g., Wednesday afternoons), inform the school office of any absences, do not book holidays during term time

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 / ~~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~~