

Coláiste Abbáin



OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

May 2021

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:

Group	Literacy rating	numeracy rating	Child happy
Parents	8	8	9
Students	8	7	8

1=poor 10=excellent

20% increase in the number of students receiving the JCSP attendance Award in 3rd year.

We introduced the new Leaving Certificate Applied Programme September 2021.

Retention Rates have improved both in Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert.

Significant increase in enrolment in 1st year and transfer students from local schools into all year groups.

Year head System is working very well in the school.

Éacht attainment and tracking programme is now fully implemented and a brochure developed to communicate this to stakeholders.

Teaching & Learning

Higher uptake now of students studying Higher Level English and Maths at Junior Cycle Level.

91% of students always and sometimes calculate their % in class tests. (numeracy in assessment).

95% of students are confident at using Microsoft Teams in 1st year.

71% of students across the year groups found remote learning easier through teams.

92% of students are able to submit assignments through Teams.

91% of 5th and 6th year students reflected on their progress reports.

78% of first year students understand what success criteria mean.

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

We undertook self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the period January 2021 remote learning and *April /May 2021*. We evaluated the following aspect(s) of teaching and learning:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Teaching and Learning – teacher collaborative/ collective practices, rolling out the Junior Cycle Reform
- Attainment
- Attendance
- Retention
- Transitions
- Partnership with parents and others
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We must be mindful of the fact that Covid 19 impacted negatively on these targets however we hope that the vaccinations programme rolled out will revert the pandemic and we will resume teaching and learning under normal circumstances. We have changed our approach in some cases to achieve the desired outcome.

This is what we are now going to work on:

- **Continuing with our Improvement plan for the next two years – despite a challenging year with the pandemic we have experienced fantastic outcomes as a community of learning.**

Specific focus

- Progress charts and calculating percentages – lead by Maths Department (low % in 1st year 30%) more of a targeted intervention needed next year.
- Success criteria - all Junior Cycle teachers- explicitly taught in class
- JCSP – tablets – access digital library – charging trolley ordered
- Literacy and Numeracy assessment SEN (in school testing time)
- Attendance challenge – continue to roll these out after letters sent home reinforcing the positive

This is what you can do to help:

Encourage your child to read at home, complete all homework and reflect on work completed. Encourage your child to practice mental maths and communicate the importance of constantly improving their numeracy and literacy skills. Attendance and work ethic are key factors that assist student attainment. Please encourage your child to engage in as many school activities as possible to promote their wellbeing and learning.

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 **167 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**.

This year we had 167 school days on our calendar, from 25th August to 4th June. Our school week is 28 hours. This included remote teaching and learning and special exemption (earlier finishing date) to facilitate accredited grading system for Leaving Certificate 2021

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

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time. YES

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

This year we had 3 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 we have told

all parents about them and how we follow them. YES

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is John Nolan

and our Deputy DLP is Lorraine Simmons

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 our admissions policy on: 22nd September 2021

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required. YES

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: In Squad meetings, sms and phone calls home, meetings with parents HSCL, DP, P, Student Support Team meetings every week, BFL programme

This is how you can help: Encouraging your child to achieve maximum school attendance, praising their achievements and active participation in school activities. Please ensure any absence from school is explained via notes in the school diary.

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