

O' Carolan College
Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

1. Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our last improvement plan, the findings of this self-evaluation, and our current improvement plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

1.1 Outcomes of our last improvement plan from Aug '21 to May '22

- We excelled in our actions to improve attendance and maintain full retention @ Junior Cert level (2021/2022)
- We built on our strong relationships with our parents and the community through positive communications between wellbeing tutors, year leaders, HSCL, SCP, senior management and families.
- We began using our Athena Tracker in 1st and 5th year – this is an excellent resource for teachers and year leaders to monitor students' progress in line with their CAT 4 scores.
- We organised superb team building workshops, mentoring programmes and Wellbeing trips to improve the experiences of our students, especially those transitioning from 3rd year and TY into 5th year and our incoming first years.
- We completed our trial period of the 'Helping Hands' programme.
- We received accreditation as a 'Safe and Supportive School (SASS)' from BeLonG To and a 'CyberSmart' school from CyberSafeKids.
- Ongoing engagement with the 'One Good School' (OGS) programme and the development of a whole school community action plan (Year 1 of 2 - Jigsaw)

1.2 The focus of this evaluation

We undertook self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the period *Aug '21 to May '22*. We evaluated the following aspect(s) of teaching and learning:

- Digital learning & technologies – our online platform and all stakeholder's ability to engage fully with it.
- Feedback – students regularly receive constructive, developmental oral and written feedback on their work, parents and students receive monthly and termly progress reports.

2. Findings

2.1 This is effective / very effective practice in our school

List the main strengths of the school in teaching and learning.

- Active and engaging methodologies are employed across all subjects in our school.
- Positive relationships between students, parents and the school were strengthened.
- High level of engagement with Studyclix among our 3rd, 5th and 6th year students.
- Cybersafe and SASS programme delivered through SPHE at Junior and Senior Cycle.

2.2. This is how we know

List the evidence sources. Refer to students' dispositions, attainment, knowledge and skills.

- Students surveys - September 2021 and May 2022
- Parents Gratitude Survey – Christmas 2021
- Incidental Inspection – February 2022 – ‘Anti-bullying’.
- One Good School (OGS) survey – March 2022 – Whole school community
- 1 – to – 1 communication between parents and the school (tutors, year heads, HSCL & SCP, Senior Mgt.)

2.3 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our practice further

Specify the aspects of teaching and learning the school has identified and prioritised for further improvement.

- Literacy – we plan to begin our journey to become a WellRead school.
- Digital learning & technologies – continue to improve in this area, to move to highly effective practices.
- ‘Helping Hands’ – early identification of at-risk students and building resilience in same.