

Coláiste Abbáin



OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

May 2020

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:

Literacy and Numeracy

Group	Literacy rating	Numeracy rating	responses
Parents	9	9	60 random sample
Students	8	7	122 random sample
Teachers	9	8	88% response rate

1=poor 10=excellent

Literacy

1. Increased uptake of higher level English at Junior Certificate / Cycle level.
2. Continued implementation of the JCSP programme for all Junior Cycle students. 85% of parents like to get information home about students' achievements.
3. Increased number of students using our school library.
4. All teacher use keywords in all subject areas. 92% of parents believe keywords help develop their child's understanding in subject areas.

Numeracy

1. 95% of students have used numeracy in assessment to plot their test results in their school diaries.
2. Increased uptake of higher level Maths in the Junior Cycle.
3. 70% of teachers have developed further numeracy visual aids this year.
4. Less students are studying foundation level Maths

Attainment

1. The percentage of students taking 3 or more higher level subjects at Junior Cycle has increased significantly.
2. The percentage of students taking 4 or more higher level subjects at Leaving Certificate has increased.

Teaching and Learning

1. All teachers make learning intentions clear at the start of class. 75% of students state it is helpful when teachers make learning intentions clear.
2. 74% of students stated that summarising at the end of class would enable them to clarify what they have learned.
3. 87% of teachers use think pair share, 44% visual verbal squares, 78% placemat.
4. All teachers have engaged in collaborative practices this academic year. 80% of our teachers have experience in co-teaching
5. All first year students got the opportunity to develop oral skills.
6. All teachers received CPD in the new Junior Cycle curriculum and have participated in SLAR meetings.
7. Specific programmes have been used to develop students' resilience e.g. Friends for Life and the Resilience Academy

Attendance

1. Significant decrease in the number of students missing 20 or more school days.
2. Excellent monitoring of the sign in/sign out book on a daily basis.

Retention

1. Increased retention of students sitting Junior Certificate exams.
2. The drop-out rate from Junior Certificate to Leaving Certificate has decreased significantly

Transitions

1. Significant increase in the number of students attending further/higher education.
2. First Year students are enabled to make a smooth transition into 1st Year through the following supports; Get Set Go Programme, Tutors, Meitheal Leaders, Extra-curricular, Year Head.

Partnership with parents and others

1. Increased percentage of parents attending Parent Teacher Meetings
2. Active Parents Association in the school
3. Excellent link with feeder schools, local businesses and community group

Student happiness

- On a scale of 1-10 (1= not happy, 10= extremely happy) the parents rated their child's happiness in Coláiste Abbáin as an 9.

Éacht attainment programme, Resilience First, Resilience Academy and Co-teaching all received fantastic feedback and will continue to be used facilitated in Coláiste Abbáin.

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

- Random number of students surveyed via google docs across the whole school (remote learning) on April 2020 (122 students) 100% response rate.
- Parents' google docs survey hard copy data entered by Deputy Principal to ensure higher response rate. (60 parents surveyed 10 per year group)
- All teachers surveyed google docs survey April 2020 (88% response rate)
- Relevant personnel reflecting over DEIS and SSE targets on noticeboard. (all year)
- ÉAIGHT attainment programme survey April 2019 (9 students)
- Co- teaching October 2018 students' opinions sought about their experience. (7 students)
- Resilience Academy survey results April 2019

This is what we are now going to work on:

- Continue with our piloted Homework strategy.
- Croke Park used to provide IT training for teachers in Microsoft teams, one note and power point presentations.
- Further Co-teaching 2020/21 timetabled classes.
- Access a life coach for the ÉAIGHT programme
- Continue with lunch n learn as a means to share teaching strategies and good practice.
- Continue to encourage the use of numeracy in assessment to get students to plot their progress in all subject areas.
- Continue to develop an extra- curricular programme in Coláiste Abbáin. Ensure all 1st Year students get involved in an extra-curricular activity.
- Develop formative feedback – reports.

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. Attend our Parent teacher meetings and information evenings to help us develop a partnership in education. Check your child's Student Diary every week.

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 (incl remote learning) teaching days, from 27th August 2019 to 29th May 2020. Our school week is 28 hours. Some teaching occurred via remote learning during school closure.

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 ... 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

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: 2nd October 2019

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

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: In house meetings, sms and phone calls home, Letters home, meetings with parents SCP, 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

This year we piloted a homework strategy with enhanced use of the student diary involving a positive reward system for Junior Cycle students. Next year we will plan for the full implementation of this strategy.