



St. Marys High School Self-Evaluation Summary Report

62380M

Evaluation period: September 2018 to May 2019
Report issue date: Wednesday 22nd May 2019

We were reflecting on:

Over the last year we have looked at teaching and learning in our school. The focus of this self-evaluation was the Learner Experiences and we were keen to find out what we were doing well and what we could try to improve.

Methods of Investigation:

Evidence was gathered from the following areas of school life

- Learner Survey
- Parent/Guardian Survey
- Teacher Survey
- Student Focus Group
- Teacher Testimony/Experience/Example
- Whole School Evaluation Report

Our results:

Teachers are actively engaging with and utilising modern teaching strategies' where applicable to enrich the learner experience. Students experience peer and self/assessment on a regular basis and mostly agree that they are achieving their goals both collaboratively and independently. Parents agreed, to strongly agreed that teaching and learning in our school is good.

Areas of improvement:

- Target 1: Students ask questions and suggest possible solutions **very confidently**. They are willing to risk incorrect responses, and understand **the value of making mistakes, using them as learning opportunities**.
- Target 2: Students demonstrate **very high levels** of interest and participation in learning. Students reflect on their behaviour and attitude to learning and are able **to set meaningful personal goals as a result of their reflection**.
- Target 3: Students can work both independently and collaboratively in a **very purposeful and productive manner**.

How you can help:

Parents and Guardians can actively encourage students to ask questions and participate in class. The type of questions and discussions, but not exclusively, that would help our learners might be:

- Making mistakes and doing the wrong thing is where we find learning so don't be afraid to try.
- Who could you ask about that?
- Maybe you should ask X about that.
- Where might you find the answer to that?
- Do you ask questions in class if you don't understand something?
- Do you ask questions in class to clarify understanding?

Department Requirements

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 school days, from August 29th to May 31st. 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. <u>YES</u>
The Department sets out arrangements for parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings.	This year we had 6 parent/teacher meetings and 5 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. <u>YES</u>
All teachers know about the Procedures and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them.	<u>YES</u>

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is	Donnchadh O Briain
Our Deputy DLP is	Mary B Walsh

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. <u>YES</u>
We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on:	22/05/2019
We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.	<u>YES</u>
We encourage high attendance in the following ways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a welcoming, safe and engaging environment to attend. • Recognition for attendance. • Daily conversations with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subject Teachers ○ Class Teachers ○ Year Heads • Recording of student attendance by class. • Various communication methods of attendance with parents/guardians. • Raising Awareness • Encouragement and Support • Participation in the TUSLA – Every School Day Counts campaign
This is how you can help:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing responsibility of attendance with learner. • Supporting good attendance. • Scheduling appointments out of school hours where possible. • Contact school with regards possible attendance issues.

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. <u>YES</u>
Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour.	<u>YES</u>
We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.	<u>YES</u>