



**St Kieran's College**  
**College Road, Kilkenny**  
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# School Self Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

2022 - 2025

## **Introduction**

School Self Evaluation (SSE) is a process that schools all over the country are currently engaged in. It is a “collaborative, inclusive, and reflective process of internal school review”.

The process of School Self Evaluation involves gathering information from a range of sources about the quality of teaching and learning in our school, and then making decisions. It culminates in the development of a School Improvement Plan which sets targets for improvement in certain areas.

This school self evaluation report is based on findings at the end of the academic year 2021-2022, into continuous improvement of *teaching and learning*. This report also outlines the initiation process of a ‘wellbeing promotion review and development policy’ as set out by the Department of Education and Skills.

## **School Context**

St Kieran’s College, as Ireland's oldest all-boys Catholic Secondary School, continues its founding aim of the pursuit of real excellence in education and formation, in the light of the Gospel, so as to allow all our students to realise the fullness of their potential. Academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally our students are encouraged to strive for all that is possible in the relentless pursuit of perfecting their individual gifts and talents. In so doing they bring to life the joy intended by our motto, “Hiems Transiit”, for themselves, those they love and the community where they will live, serve and lead.

## **Outcomes of our last Improvement Plan 2016-2022**

### **Target Areas Identified in SIP 2021**

- Assessment and Reporting - to investigate current formative feedback practices and to continue working towards more highly effective practices.
- Reflection - to develop strategies to improve student reflection on their own learning through the work of the PLG. Also, to develop the language of learning with second year students.
- In light of challenges faced throughout the pandemic, our Covid Contingency plan set a target to provide staff with professional development in remote learning and teaching strategies and to adopt Google Classroom as the online learning and teaching platform throughout the school community.
- As a result of feedback from students following the pandemic, it was decided to carry out a review of the homework policy.

## **Methodology used in School Self-Evaluation Report and School Improvement Plan**

This School Self-Evaluation Report and School Improvement Plan is based on data gathered through both qualitative and quantitative methods. This included:

- Parents' online survey
- Student online surveys
- Student questionnaires
- Focus group discussions with students
- Focus group discussions with Students' Council members
- Teachers' online surveys
- Staff discussion

## **Summary of the main strengths**

### **AFL/Assessment and Reporting**

Learning intentions.

- Recent surveys highlight that the majority of students are familiar with the term and understand the purpose of learning intentions.

Success Criteria

- The number of students saying they use and create success criteria in most classes has increased.

Formative feedback

- Formative Feedback on termly reports has significantly improved as per management and teacher observations.
- There has also been an increase in the number of students who understand formative feedback.

### **Reflection**

As observed by teachers and members of the PLG, reflection is becoming a more regular part of teaching and learning, particularly in the case of class groups completing CBA's.

### **Remote/Online learning and teaching strategies**

Google classroom has become an integral part of teaching and learning across the school community, with most teachers using it on a regular basis to communicate with students regarding classwork, homework and extra - curricular activities. Online surveys, questionnaires and projects are regularly used amongst teachers and students.

### **Homework**

A collaborative approach amongst subject departments in relation to homework distribution and frequency was adopted in the review of the homework policy. Parents, students and staff were consulted in carrying out the review and feedback received informed the updated policy.

### **Summary of main areas requiring improvement**

- Students should be encouraged to use formative feedback given to reflect on their learning and set themselves targets for improvement.
- Teachers should encourage students to be more involved in the creation of success criteria as a class group.
- Reflection on learning and teaching should take place on a regular basis and not just for the purpose of CBA's.

## Part Two: School Improvement Plan

### Actions and Targets for the School Improvement Plan 2022-2025

#### Teaching and Learning - Assessment for Learning

- To encourage use of formative feedback in setting goals for improvement amongst students.
- To involve students in the creation of success criteria as a class group.
- To further embed reflection in learning and teaching.

#### Timeframe for action

2022 - 2023

#### Review Date

March / April 2023

#### Wellbeing

- To initiate a wellbeing promotion review and development cycle.

#### Actions Required

- Set up a wellbeing team.
- Conduct surveys to identify strengths and target areas for improvement within the four key areas of Wellbeing Promotion.
- Identify one key area for improvement, and subsequently use the indicators of success to highlight areas of 'effective practice for all' and 'effective practice for some and few' in the key area.
- Use quantitative and qualitative feedback to set targets for improvement and inform our school improvement plan.

#### Timeframe for action

August 2022- December 2022

#### Persons Responsible

SSE team will lead the investigation of wellbeing promotion and conduct surveys to gather data.  
Wellbeing team will analyse data gathered from various stakeholders and identify areas for improvement.

#### Review Date

November-December 2022

