



Scoil Mhuire gan Smál
Clondulane N.S.
Clondulane, Fermoy, Co. Cork,
Phone (025) 32863



Review

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:

Following on from the return post Covid 19, we felt that there were many issues presenting themselves in school that were more prevalent than pre Covid 19. Poor attendance, behaviour issues, school refusal and the word anxiety becoming more prevalent amongst pupils, parents and staff. As a staff, we decided to try to adopt a change in our school culture to help support and scaffold Wellbeing amongst the whole school community.

-A newly formed In School Management Leadership team (ISLT) was re- established and a Wellbeing coordinator was appointed Ms. Leahy. This has included Team Coaching through the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) to help share the workload amongst the school management team and improve the management structures within the school.

- The Anti Bullying and Code of Behaviour policy was updated and ratified.

- We adopted the Restorative Practice Approach and as a staff undertook CPD to learn how to implement the approach. The coordinator and school principal undertook additional training to help lead the approach. It is revised regularly at staff meetings on designated days. Based on extensive research, the school recognizes the importance of getting outside and exercising in the fresh air, in nature and as such, daily movement breaks are part of our school culture. We have also adopted a whole school approach to recognizing and promoting positive behavior. Class Dojo is now used as a means of rewarding positive behavior in class and the GREAT Star awards are a whole school award ceremony held at monthly assembly.

-The School Principal and S.E.T., undertook training in the Friends for Life Programme and began working with a focus group where there were issues with conflict.

-The school engaged with an advisor from the PDST around the area of SPHE and ensuring its implementation. We as a school ensured the Stay Safe Programme were completed

-The school invested in upgrades to its PE equipment and ICT equipment to help children develop their Physical and Digital Literacy including 30 new laptops and 8 Gymnastic mats.

-The Parents Association was revived and reorganized under the new name of Friends of Clondulane (PA). This greatly helped with funding for extracurricular areas such as tours and events. This included outside speakers around Mental Health and Wellbeing and Online Safety.

-A Student's Council was established to increase student voice.

- A strong link with Clondulane Community Council and Fermoy Street Arts was strengthened and fostered to develop the sense of community for the pupils. It developed the creative talents of the pupils, culminating in a win in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

-As a staff, we celebrated birthdays, successes and there is a strong sense of collegiality, collaboration and support. This is supported by the BOM as well as regular reminders about the access to Spectrum Life for staff members.

OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022/23

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

What we are doing well:

- We have made huge improvements in the physical space of the school with upgrades and regular maintenance in the yard and surroundings, making it an attractive and safe place for the children to come to school.
- We have also invested heavily in upgrading the ICT (new laptops, whiteboards, Broadband) and PE equipment helping improve their digital and physical literacy.
- The staff have been very open to CPD and updating their skill sets with regular staff meetings, and engagement with PDST advisors on SPHE and the new PLC. Sharing of practices and expertise amongst staff is also a very strong feature (ICT, Restorative Practice)
- Pupil voice is being celebrated in the school through the formation of a student council.
- Parental engagement through the re configuring of the Parents Association.
- Collaboration and collegiality amongst staff members is a strength and has helped in difficult situations. The formation of the new ISLT team has helped in the delegation of roles and responsibilities so that no person is overwhelmed.

What we need to improve upon:

As a staff, we sat down and discussed what we felt were the issues presenting themselves the most.

-*Behaviour* was one issue that was mentioned regularly and pupil's difficulties transitioning back to school "norms" post Covid. The recognition of the staff and school principal that there was a better approach to behavior by promoting positive behavior was agreed. Although started, it needs to be embedded further and reviewed.

-*Attendance* and school refusal was an issue identified through school data on Aladdin. Earlier communication with parents around the importance of school attendance, and communicating with the school needs to improve.

-*Wellbeing and school culture* was identified as the overarching issue. While Pupil wellbeing is the focus, it takes a whole school shift in culture to work on this focus. Improvements listed above have been implemented but need to be monitored and reviewed regularly. Staff need to be supported with an ever-increasing demand in workload, new curriculum and increase in special educational needs and challenging behaviours. Parent's wellbeing needs to be supported by simpler communication methods (Aladdin Connect) and supports from the Parents Association.

This is what we are now going to work on:

1. We are now going to focus on completing the training in Restorative Practice, sharing it with wider school community and implementing it across the school in our daily practices.
2. We are going to continue on our focus of promoting positive behaviour amongst the pupils, including good attendance.
3. School Culture is something that takes time to improve. We believe that all the initiatives listed above will culminate in the overall change and improvement in school culture and in turn, the overall Wellbeing of the pupils.

This is what you can do to help:

- Continue to support your child's learning at home, and re-inforce the importance of good behavior.
- Please ensure your child does not miss school unnecessarily. If your child is absent this must be communicated swiftly to the school.
- Continue to support school initiatives, and get involved with the Friends of Clondulane
- Continue to engage with and support the school

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 primary schools to have **182 school days** each year.

This year we had 182 school days, from 1 Sept 2022 to 28th June 2023

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

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

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 / NO**

All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told

Parents about them, and how we follow them. **YES / NO**

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is James O' Sullivan (Principal)

and our Deputy DLP is Peter Ryan(Acting Deputy Principal)

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 / NO**

We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on: Nov 2021

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required. **YES / NO**

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour, and asks us to consult parents and children about it. We do this. **YES / NO**

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour. **YES / NO**

We have a very clear and high profile anti-bullying policy in our school. **YES / NO**