



SCOIL THOMÁIS: OUR SELF-EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In the last year, we have looked at wellbeing in our school to find out what we are doing well.

This is what we discovered:

- Our school is welcoming and accessible to pupils, staff, and parents.
- Children feel part of the school community and safe in school.
- The school is kept well and bright. The physical environment meets the needs of those with SEN.
- Parents feel that the school sees health and wellbeing as important.
- There is a whole school approach to the teaching of the SPHE curriculum. Pupils are aware that RSE and Stay Safe lessons are taught.
- 95.7% of pupils surveyed agreed they are taught about bullying and cyberbullying in school.
- Children get the opportunity to do a range of activities at school.
- The school has appropriate wellbeing policies in place e.g., Anti bullying policy, Healthy Eating policy, RSE policy, SPHE plan, Child Safeguarding statement and risk assessment. 92% of parents are aware that they can access these.
- Children are encouraged to eat healthy food.
- All children surveyed feel that adults in the school encourage students to do their best.
- Staff show respect and care for pupils and for each other.
- We have a student council in the school.

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

1. **Staff Wellbeing survey**- All staff were invited to complete the survey.
2. **Parent/Guardian Wellbeing survey**- Surveys were sent out on a Google Form to parent/guardians from one class at each class level from Junior Infants to 6th class.
3. **Pupil Survey**- Surveys were completed by one class at each level from 3rd-6th class.
4. **Pupil 'If I had a magic Wand' worksheet**- Feedback from children from Junior Infants to 2nd class was gathered via worksheets where they were asked to draw/write what would make their time in school better.
5. **Focus Group**- Members of the *student council* met with Ms. Peoples and Ms. O' Reilly to discuss Wellbeing in the school.

This is what we are now going to work on:

1. Implement timetabled daily outdoor movement breaks for all classes in the school.
2. Plan a Wellbeing week to promote Wellbeing across the school community.
3. Introduce Zippy's Friends in Junior and Senior Infants as part of our SPHE programme. *Zippy's Friends is an evidence-based programme which helps to develop positive coping strategies and social skills in children aged 4-7.*

This is what you can do to help:

- Encourage your child to eat healthy food and to be active outdoors.
- *Parents of children in Junior & Senior Infants*-Chat to your child about the Zippy's Friends lessons when they are being taught using the home-school links page.

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 **183 school days** each year. This year we had 183 school days, from 31st Aug 2022 to 30th 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 1 parent/teacher meetings 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. **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 Lorna **Diffley**, our Deputy DLP is **Mary Ryan**.

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 (and updated) our admissions policy on: **28/2/2023**.

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

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- General awareness-raising strategies (talking about attendance, attendance in key documents and prominent places,
- Involving parents in setting high expectations (communication & consultation)
- Providing support programmes to support and enhance attendance (after-school activities, student committees), seek advice from outside agencies (NEPs, TUSLA)
- Building linkages with other schools
- Links with local community (Fóroige, community centre events, local clubs)

This is how you can help: You are encouraged to be involved in school life including decision-making, volunteer for school/PA events, attend PA meetings, answer parent surveys,

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**

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**