

School Self Evaluation Report

St. Catherine's Special School,

Newcastle, Co. Wicklow.

School Roll Number: 19522L

School Self-Evaluation Report

Evaluation period: **2021/2022**

Report issue date: *June 2022*

School Self Evaluation Report

School Self-Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

1.1 School Profile and Composition

St. Catherine's Special School is under the patronage of St. Catherine's Association. We educate pupils who have Moderate/Severe/Profound Learning Abilities. Currently 93 students attend our school.

We have 16 class teachers, 3 subject teachers and an Administrative Principal. Our middle management team currently consists of an Administrative Deputy Principal, an Assistant Principal I and an Assistant Principal II.

A school self-evaluation in St. Catherine's Special School was undertaken during the period September 2021 to June 2022. During the evaluation, the following areas were identified for consideration in our ongoing School Improvement Plan:

- Wellbeing
- Pupil Personal Planning

This is a report on both the progress of our 21/22 targets and also our findings from investigations for our 22/23 and future targets.

2. Rationale behind our focus

Following on from the previous SSE report from June 2021, it was evident that of our previous targets, wellbeing could be further developed and that the area of pupil personal planning should be prioritised as an additional target for this year.

Regarding the improvement of previous targets, following consultation with the internal school management team and school staff, it was agreed that there were a few areas where current good practices were not being fully exploited with regards to potential increases in Wellbeing.

The following is a recap of our targets for the current year and a brief summation of the success or otherwise of the achievement of these targets.

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This document records the outcomes of our last improvement plan, the findings of this self-evaluation, and our current improvement plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

1.1 Outcomes of St. Catherine's Special School last improvement plan for the school year 2021/2022

Planning

Targets	Actions	Persons/groups responsible	Outcome 2021/2022
Teachers are familiarising themselves with Primary Language Curriculum and have requested more information or a workshop on teasing out learning outcomes into appropriate learning experiences in our classrooms.	<p>Sustained support applied for via NCSE</p> <p>Termly Croke Park to be used for webinar 3, 4 and 5</p>	<p>Principal</p> <p>Assistant Principal I</p>	<p>x3 days (term 1, term 2 and term 3) of sustained support received from NCSE on the document preparing for teaching and learning, learning outcome and learning experiences, assessment</p> <p>Croke Park hours used for teacher training in term 1 (webinar 3), term 2 (webinar 4) and term 3 (webinar 5)</p> <p>Whole school planning formats changed to incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Separate section on assessment for all teachers planning - Subject teachers planning tailored to termly group planning with a monthly assessment of pupil's learning

Assessment

Targets	Actions	Persons/groups responsible	Outcome 2021/2022
Assessment	Remove the age range to allow for the appropriate assessment to be used in terms of ability in St. Catherine's Formal Assessment	Assistant Principal I	<p>Completed and feedback from teachers is that using the assessment which best suits the ability of the students is working better</p> <p>Teachers often felt the assessment needed to be completed in November, but often the targets remained the same in May. this was discussed and agreed for teachers to carry over useful targets</p> <p>Teachers have also trialled a range of assessments which suited their class as documented in our Assessment Policy.</p> <p>All assessments both formative and summative, documented in each child's</p>

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			IEP's and SALF/L1LP portfolios
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Individual Education Plans

Targets	Actions	Persons/groups responsible	Outcome 2021/2022
Improved parental input into creation of IEP targets	Creation of Information Note for Parents prior to IEP meetings in November.	Principal	Very useful for the majority of parents. New parents expressed satisfaction in particular. Language may need to be simplified slightly as some parents reported that they struggled to read it.
	Creation of Parent Questionnaire which was distributed and received back from parents prior to meetings	Principal	Teachers reported that when the questionnaire was returned in November then meetings ran much smoother as all parties were more prepared. Feedback received to look at Pupil Personal Planning and merge Individual Education Plan and Pupil Personal Profile document into one combined Pupil Personal Profile including pupils care plans and educational targets

Digital Learning

Targets	Actions	Persons/groups responsible	Outcome 2021/2022
Develop skills such as using google slides, the effective use of interactive touch screens in class, designing differentiated learning resources, recording student progress, creating student portfolios	Teachers confident in using google drive can collaborate with other teachers in sharing their skills. All teachers to create student portfolios	All teachers	Teachers feel more confident in creating differentiated teaching and learning resources using google slides such as using slides for readers and to scan story books. Teachers have created portfolios for all students. Teachers have suggested making short videos on how to use each part of google drive (especially useful for new staff who may not be familiar with the system)

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Incorporate the use of AAC into teaching and learning	Compile a presentation to share with teachers on examples of AAC use across the day	Digital Learning Coordinator Lámh Coordinator	Google slide presentations shared with teachers on Drive showing different ways AAC can be incorporated into teaching and learning. Lámh videos shared with teachers on Drive. Teachers reported that they find doing the same repeated activities each day with high tech devices helps to incorporate their use e.g. saying hello, day of the week, schedules, colours, numbers etc and students are now independent at responding to these activities using their devices, navigating to pages etc.
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Wellbeing

Targets	Actions	Persons/groups responsible	Outcome 2021/2022
Review of Curricular provision to ensure 400 hours of Wellbeing at Junior Cycle	Review timetables as a whole school to ensure appropriate time allocation for Wellbeing	Principal	Management satisfied that this requirement is being achieved.
Maintain The Pieta Amber Flag Initiative	Wellbeing goals Retain Amber Flag : Hold a wellbeing week - focusing on Wellbeing according to <i>Mental Health Ireland</i> - be active, connect, take notice, keep learning and give	Wellbeing Committee	Wellbeing Curricular options were developed and prioritised Wellbeing Committee - Wellbeing week held and Amber Flag application approved in principle - Be Active: A Whole School PE lessons on Zoom Take Notice: Mindfulness Monday Give: Fundraiser for <i>Pieta House - crazy hat/funky shoes day</i> €166 Keep Learning: We learned all about feelings, including Lámh signs Connect: Assembly - wonder moments included activities from throughout the week

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Mosaics and sensory garden	Creative Committee goals Creative Schools (1) (1).pdf - Google Drive	Creative Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short Units of Learning were introduced - Music and Art - Music teacher in situ 2 days a week with the view to increasing to 3 days 22/23 - Creative Committee - mosaic letters 50% completed, showcase day scheduled 23rd June
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3.

Our Improvement Plan

St. Catherine's Special School SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN September 2022 to June 2023	
Targets/Actions	Personnel/groups responsible
Wellbeing	
Finalise Senior Cycle Unit of Work to incorporate a Wellbeing Module which complements existing programme requirements.	Senior Cycle Coordinator Senior Cycle Teachers
Implement Breakfast Club plan for all classes in 22/23 Develop and Introduce Healthy Eating Policy for all classes beginning with one day per week, increasing each term as the year progresses.	Principal Class Teachers
Work with Creative Schools and Wicklow Arts Council to ensure that previously successful short units of learning in The Arts can continue under our 22/23 creative focus	Creative Coordinator
Develop a Wellbeing Policy	Principal Board of Management

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Pupil Personal Planning

Merge Pupil Personal Profile and Individual Education Plan and Pupil Personal Profile document into one combined document including pupils care plans with changing educational targets

Collate existing care plans, individual educational plans and pupil personal profiles into the one document

Liaise with clinical team (OT/SLT/physio/BPS) regarding priority clinical goals and identify which priority goals are required for pupils to access their educational goals

Update education targets and care targets twice a year (November and May)

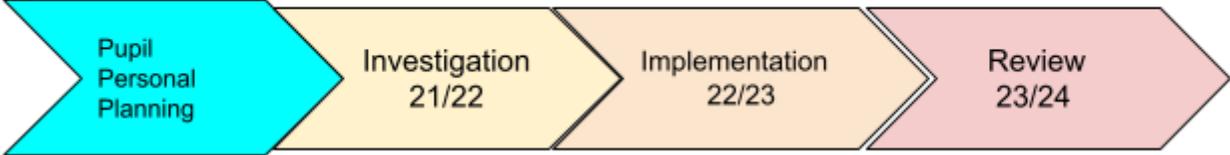
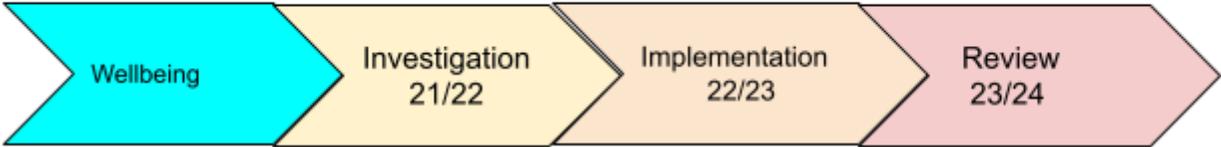
Principal and Leadership Team

Class Teachers

Outline of proposed School Self Evaluation for the period 2021 - 2024

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St Catherine's Special School School Self Evaluation Overview 2021 - 2024



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