



**Dominican College Sion Hill**  
**Report on the School Self Evaluation Process**  
**January 2019 to September 2020**

Report on our progress on Targets as outlined in the School Improvement Plan published in September 2017 and reviewed in January 2019.

**SECTION A**

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.

- The vast majority of students continue to work to their ability and achieve their potential, as indicated by our academic monitoring programme (Domain 1, Standards 3 and 4)
- All teachers use iPads in class for tasks other than to access textbooks. There is significant evidence of widespread use of digital learning tools (Domain 3, Standard 3)
- The vast majority of students discuss their exam results and feedback with parents/guardians
- Teachers' collaborative practice is well developed, with improved use of Virtual Learning Environments and digital platforms for sharing of resources (Domain 4, Standard 1)
- Teachers make effective and explicit use of literacy strategies in most lessons (Domain 2, Standard 4)
- Promotion of student voice, student leadership and student involvement is strong (Domain 2, Standard 4)
- The school communicates very well with parents about their child's progress and well-being.
- The quality of the reports that are sent home to parents has been developed, with more in depth teachers' comments on students' learning in subjects (Domain 4, Standard 3)
- An assessment policy has been developed and has been ratified by the Board of Management
- The use of exam feedback sheets has become embedded throughout the school and these are used to further develop student learning

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

- Examination of Department of Education Inspection Reports issued to school
- Surveys of students, parents and staff
- Review and examination of school reports

**This is what we are now going to work on for 2020/2021**

The WSE-MLL recommendation (Domain 4, Standard 3)

*"To build on the highly effective practices observed in lessons and ongoing continuing professional development (CPD), teachers should continue to focus on developing their assessment for learning practices."*

will be the main focus for our improvement plan for 2020 to 2022.

In addition:

- We will maintain the existing significant strengths of our school
- We will continue to develop the quality of reports that are sent home to parents.
- The school website and School App will be further developed to improve communication with parents and the wider community.
- The use of VLE SchoolWise will be further developed to promote collaborative planning and effective, ongoing formative feedback to students

## **SECTION B**

**Additional 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. In the 2019/2020 school year we had 167 school days (54 of which were remote learning due to COVID-19 closures). 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.

The Department sets out arrangements for parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings. All meetings were held in accordance with Department of Education regulations.

### **Looking after the children in our school**

The Department requires schools to follow the Child Protection Procedures it has set down. In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Dominican College Sion Hill has agreed a Child Safeguarding Statement. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement. Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this. All teachers know about the Procedures and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them. Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Dr Orla Condren and our Deputy DLP is Mr Gerry Killion.

### **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. We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- Good attendance is promoted in the school by a culture of high expectations, encouraging each student to take responsibility for her own learning so that she can achieve her full potential through regular presence in class.
- Throughout the curriculum, students are made aware of the incremental nature of learning and the implications for them of irregular attendance. This is also promoted through the Pastoral Care programme.
- The Year Head and/or Tutor meet with students for whom attendance or punctuality have

- been identified as an issue.
- Reports to Parents/Guardians include a detailed breakdown of attendance for the period in question.
- Records of attendance and punctuality are available to parents to view on VsWare by logging in using the unique password for that student.
- The school's Prize Day ceremony acknowledges excellent attendance and punctuality.
- A sense of belonging and connectedness in school is developed through participation in all aspects of school life and/or extra-curricular activities and through the school's Leadership Committees

#### **This is how Parents/Guardians can help:**

Parents/Guardians are asked

- To support the school's Attendance Strategy in compliance with their legal responsibilities (Education Welfare Act 2000)
- To ensure regular and punctual attendance of students and avoid unnecessary absences
- Where possible, to arrange appointments outside of school time e.g. Wednesday afternoons. Records of attendance and punctuality are available to parents to view on VsWare by logging in using the unique password for that student.
- To provide a written explanation for the student's absence on the first day of return to school.
- To inform the school in advance of any planned absences from school.
- To provide to the school reliable contact telephone numbers and alternative 'emergency' numbers.
- To adhere to the procedures set out in this Strategy for the withdrawal of students from school during the school day.
- To acknowledge and, where necessary, reply to communications from the school in relation to attendance issues.
- To arrange, where possible, all elective appointments for after school or during school holidays.
- Signing in and out of school: Any student arriving late must sign in at the Office. Any student who needs to leave school early must sign out before departure. And sign in again if returning to school on the same day

#### **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. Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour. We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.

Signed: Orla Condren

Dr Orla Condren

Secretary, Board of Management

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

