



St. Mary's Diocesan School

Beamore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92TF24

Telephone Office: 041 983 7581 • Fax: 041 984 1151 • Email: office@stmarysds.ie

Principal: Ciarán O'Hare • Deputy Principals: Cerrie Byrne, Catherina McNicholas

Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

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:

- Activity based learning exercises are used by 80% of our teachers.
- A variety of summative assessments are provided in our school.
- Students receive oral and written feedback on their work.
- 92% of our students feel prepared for learning.
- In surveys done with 1st and 2nd years, 78% still have high satisfaction in their attitudes to teachers and there is an overall there is high satisfaction their school experience (84% positive responses to the statements to PASS survey)
- Literacy strategies embedded. Uptake of HL JC and LC English above National Averages for 2018: JC +6%, LC +9%
- Numeracy strategies embedded. Uptake for HL LC above National Averages but slightly below at JC for 2018: JC -5%, LC +4%

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

- Junior and Leaving Certificate Results Analysis – comparisons to national averages and comparison to CAT results.
- PASS (Pupils attitude to self & school) and The Student Experience questionnaires carried out with 1st & 2nd Year students
- NGRT & PTM (reading and maths tests) carried out with all 1st Year students.
- DOT (Drumcondra online tests – reading and maths) carried out with 2nd Year students
- Coffee morning for 1st Year Parent in October to gain feedback how students settled in and anything we need to change for next year.
- Staff surveys on Learning and Teaching (Survey Monkey and Microsoft Forms)
- Physical Education inspection report and SSE advisory visit
- Staff feedback and training from Erasmus programme focused on learning and teaching.

This is what we are now going to work on:

- Foster teacher professional development through peer observation, to enrich teachers' and students' learning, whilst encouraging collaboration (T&L + L&M)
- Update school policies – A committee has been set up (L&M)
- Continue participation in Erasmus programme (T&L)
- Continue participation in the Digital Leaders programme with a view to extend participation for next year (T&L)

Parents, this is what you can help with:

- Speak to your son about their experience in school. Listen to their concerns and celebrate their achievements.
- Participate in parent surveys.
- Attend parent/teacher meetings and any other parent's evenings.
- Communicate with us either through journal notes, by telephone, by email or arrange a meeting with relevant person/s
- Support Parent's Council Activities

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 post-primary schools to have **167 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**.

Last year we had 167 school days planned for last year, from 28th August to 1st June. Our school week is 28 hours. (Red weather warnings closed the school for 5 days)

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

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

YES / NO

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**. This year we had 6 parent/teacher meetings and 6 staff meetings, all in line with the Department's regulations.

Looking after the children in our school

The Department requires schools to have a *Child Safeguarding Statement* in accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*. Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this.

YES / NO

All teachers know about child safeguarding and have taken part in whole staff training as well as the e-learning module provided by TUSLA. The Child Safeguarding Statement is on the schools website as well as being displayed in the main assembly area..

YES / NO

Our Designated Liaison Person {DLP} is Mr. O'Hare {Principal} and our Deputy DLP is Cerrie Byrne{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: 15th May 2020

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

YES / NO

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- The importance of good attendance is promoted throughout the school
- Teachers maintain accurate and live class rolls on VsWare
- Students receive full attendance awards

This is how you can help:

- Encourage your child to attend school
- Try to minimize appointments during school days
- Provide notes in the Journal explaining absences

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a Code of Behaviour

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
