



Grange Post-Primary School
Iarbhunscoil na Gráinsí
windows of opportunity

GRANGE POST PRIMARY SCHOOL

**GRANGE,
CO. SLIGO.
72330D**

School Self-Evaluation Report 2016

Evaluation period: 09/2015 to 04/2016

Report issue date:

Summary School Self-Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

Our school has its own context. There are (21) teachers and (203) pupils in the school. We have a number of programmes operating in the school. Our attendance levels are good. Our students' behaviour is very good. For more information on how we intend to improve our students' learning, please see our School Improvement Plan which is available from the school office on request, and will be shared via the school website and/ or newsletter during the school year.

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

We undertook a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the year. We evaluated our students' skills in relation to self-directed independent learning and their ability to study and organise their homework effectively. We chose these because we felt that our students could improve their learning outcomes in these areas.

This report summarises the strengths that were identified and the areas that have been prioritised for improvement.

2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

We collected information from parents, students and teachers in preparing this report. We looked at how well our students were doing in independent learning and their ability to study and organise homework effectively. We also surveyed some pupils / teachers / parents and assessed data on homework and subject department inspections.

2.1 We found that our school has **strengths** in the following areas:

Strengths

- ✓ Teachers prepare work for classes very effectively.
- ✓ Expected learning outcomes are clearly communicated and lessons are differentiated appropriately.
- ✓ Teaching is focused, stimulating and relevant.
- ✓ A range of assessment methods are used effectively to assess progress.
- ✓ All students are respected and realistic but high expectations are communicated.
- ✓ Learning settings are safe, well maintained, visually stimulating and supportive of literacy and numeracy.
- ✓ Students have access to appropriate materials to support learning.
- ✓ Students are given support as needed.
- ✓ Students are becoming increasingly involved in monitoring their own work.
- ✓ Students are being taught increasingly to reflect on their own work.
- ✓ Key skills at Junior Cycle are being incorporated into subject department planning gradually.
- ✓ Students can effectively plan work, summarise work, present work to others and organise to work in teams.
- ✓ Students have well developed ICT skills.

We know these are our strengths because the data we collected established each of the above.

2.2 We have decided to prioritise the following **areas for development**:

Areas for development

Students **independent learning** skills at Junior and Leaving Cycle particularly including the following areas:

Students ability to:

- identify their own **learning styles**,
- organise **revision and study** effectively
- organise and complete **homework** to a high standard.
- **monitor** and **constructively reflect** on their own work and progress.

We have decided to prioritise these areas because we feel that increased independent learning will enhance not only their attainment in state examinations at the end of their second level education but is vital to their ability to access third level and the employment market after second level.

Appendix: Post-primary School Self-Evaluation Report: legislative and regulatory checklist

Rules and regulations for schools are set out in a number of Education Acts, and in Circulars issued to schools from time to time by the Department of Education and Skills. The list below deals with important areas of school life and tells you what rules and regulations apply to them. You will find the Acts and Circulars mentioned on the Department's website, www.education.ie.

Which area of school life is involved, and what are the regulations?	Is the school following the regulations fully?
Enrolment of students The Education Act 1998, the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, and Circular M51/93 set out the principles schools should follow in their enrolment policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Repeating a year Students may repeat a school year in certain conditions and for particular reasons, such as illness. Conditions are set out in Circular M02/95	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The school calendar and the school timetable Schools must offer a minimum of 167 school days each year to all year groups. Circular M29/95 sets this down. Schools must offer a minimum school week of 28 hours for all year groups. Circular M29/95 sets this down.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Standardised school year School holidays are now standardised so all post-primary schools have holidays at the same time. The current school holidays circular is 0016/2014	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings These meetings have to happen at certain times of the day so as not to interrupt teaching time or inconvenience parents. Circular M58/04 sets these out.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Implementation of national literacy and numeracy strategy Schools are required to have a whole-school approach to literacy and numeracy development. Parents have an important role to play in this area. See <i>Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life</i> , and Circular 0025/2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Agreement regarding additional time in school for teachers Circular 0043/2014 requires teachers to do an additional 33 hours of out-of-class work each year, so as not to reduce teaching time	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Development of school plan All schools are required to have a school plan, giving their mission and vision, policies and priorities for development	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Engagement with school self-evaluation (SSE) process The SSE process requires schools to evaluate how well they are doing, and where they need to improve. The voices of parents and students are very important to this evaluation process. See www.schoolself-evaluation.ie .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Guidance provision in post-primary schools The Education Act 1998 requires all schools to provide appropriate guidance to students. See Circular 09/2012 for the current arrangements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Delivery of CSPE to all junior cycle classes Civic, Social and Political Education is currently a compulsory subject in the junior cycle. All junior cycle students should have one CSPE lesson per week.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Exemption from the study of Irish Some students may be exempt from studying Irish. See Circular M10/94	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Implementation of child protection procedures The <i>Child Protection Procedures for primary and post-primary schools</i> (2011) oblige schools to ensure that: liaison persons have been appointed ; the procedures have been communicated to the whole school community; and the procedures are being followed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Implementation of complaints procedure as appropriate Section 28 Education Act 1998 provides for procedures to address complaints about a school	Complaints have been resolved or are being resolved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Appeal in the case of refusal to enrol students, suspension, and expulsion Section 29 Education Act 1998 provides for an appeal procedure in these cases. The school deals with them first. Where cases are not resolved at school level, an external appeals committee hears the appeal and makes a decision.	Appeals have been dealt with or are being dealt with <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix: School Self-Evaluation report: policy checklist –

<p>Schools are required to have certain policies in place as part of their permanent school plan. It is good practice for schools to consult with the school community in forming and reviewing many of these policies. The school board of management has to approve and ratify policies, and should ensure that they are reviewed on a regular basis.</p>	
What area of school life does the policy deal with and what is the aim of the policy?	Has the policy been approved by the board of management?
Enrolment policy Section 15 of the Education Act 1998 obliges schools to have and publish an enrolment policy that respects the principles of equality and parental choice	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Code of behaviour Section 23, Education (Welfare) Act 2000, and the 2008 <i>National Educational Welfare Board Guidelines</i> set out regulations and good practice for schools to follow when drawing up and implementing a code of behaviour. This good practice includes consultation with parents and students.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Anti-bullying procedures The Department's <i>Anti-bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools</i> , 2013, set out the measures that schools are required to have in place.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Attendance and participation strategy Section 22 Education Welfare Act 2000 requires schools to develop a strategy to support high levels of student attendance and participation in school life. Parents have a very important role and responsibility in this area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Health and Safety Statement All schools should have a health and safety statement that is regularly reviewed (see Section 20 Health and Safety Act 2005)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Data protection School procedures relating to gathering, storing and sharing data on students should comply with data protection legislation - Data Protection Act 1988 and Data Protection (Amendment Act) 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Special education needs policy Various pieces of equality and education legislation, especially the Education for Persons with Special Education Needs Act (EPSEN) 2004, require schools to be inclusive of students with special educational needs and to provide for them appropriately using the resources available	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Social, personal and health education(SPHE)/Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) policy Schools are required by various circulars to provide SPHE in the junior cycle and RSE throughout the school, and to have policies to support this provision.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Substance use policy The National Drugs Strategy and Department guidelines require schools to develop and implement a substance use policy in consultation with parents and students, and other relevant agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Internet acceptable use policy Schools should have and implement a policy to instruct students on safe and responsible use of the internet. Parents have a key role to play in this area. See www.webwise.ie .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Child protection policy All schools should have a child protection policy that includes the <i>Child Protection Procedures</i> . The policy should be communicated to the whole school community.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Parents as partners in education It is good practice for schools to have a parents' association, and to promote partnership between home and school. The board of management has an important role in supporting the parents' association.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Deployment of special needs assistants Circular 71/11 allows for SNAs to be deployed flexibly to respond to the needs of schools and students.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No