



Ballinacarriga National School's SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Over the last few years, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:

- We continue to implement past SSE practices.
- Good teaching and learning practices throughout the school.
- There is a good sense of community in our school.
- Before Covid, the school was welcoming. (But after Covid, the school was less welcoming)
- We were teaching Webwise to older classes towards the end of the school year.

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

- Staff meeting – group chats and feedback.
- Pupil questionnaires on iPads in school
- Parent questionnaires – google forms.
- 3rd & 4th class pupils wrote their memories of the Covid Pandemic and their feeling about it.

This is what we are now going to work on: Improving wellbeing among the children following the Covid Pandemic.

- Re-book Ger Brick, cyber safety for Sept/Oct 2023 for parents, staff and pupils.
- Explicitly teach Webwise from 1st – 6th class as a prevention strategy.
- Host a feel-good day or event to foster a positive atmosphere in the school and community.
- Teach yoga as part of wellbeing.

This is what you can do to help:

- Foster a positive outlook towards school and school activities.
- Encourage children to have a “give it a go” attitude when it comes to different activities whether in school or out of school.
- Where possible, attend school organized events to encourage our sense of community.
- Please reach out to staff (while being mindful of their right to disconnect) and drop in to the school when needed.

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 **182 school days** each year.

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**.

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 Róisín Hurley

and our Deputy DLP is Eleanor McSweeney

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: 7-6-2023

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

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- A bright happy school with a positive atmosphere that encourages respect.
- Music, active weeks, wellbeing activities, emails to parents with reference to attendance.

This is how you can help:

- Keep class teachers informed of the reasons for absenteeism on the first day of their absence.
- If there are issues at home that restrict your child's attendance, please discuss these matters in private with the principal or class teacher.

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