

Newtown School Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

Introduction

A School Self-Evaluation of Teaching and Learning in Newtown School was undertaken during the period from September 2023 to June 2024.

In September 2023, a School Self-Evaluation (SSE) working group was formed to implement the improvement plan for 2023-2024. The plan focused on:

Improvement plan for 2023-2024 focussed on

SSE targets for 2023/4 are:

Wellbeing Relationships and Partnerships

For All: Undertake a whole school clan activity twice a term

For Some: The prefect system will link in with year groups twice at term

For Few: School Support Team to identify students experiencing difficulties and connect them with the Pastoral Care Team as needed

For Staff: Training in Restorative Practice

Teaching & Learning: Increased use of structured Groupwork in class

Digital Learning: Staff share relevant resources with students on Teams
Staff to continue the use of Studyclix

This report records the outcomes of our improvement plan for 2023-24 and sets out our improvement plan for 2024-25.

1. Wellbeing

Framework – Feedback on the Wellbeing Framework has been received from staff and from students. A meeting will be scheduled with Newtown Association for their input and then forwarded to the board.

Whole school clan activities were undertaken twice a term to great success. Orienteering events were held with 1st and 4th year to encourage students to get to know their clan.

Term 1 activities included the Cross Country running event and a Food Bank Collection where the clan that contributed the most food got points for their clan.

Term 2 included a Newtown Reads event where staff and students were encouraged to dress up in their clan colours, sit together in Collect and read a book. There was also a clan colour day where students were encouraged to wear their clan colours to school. In Term 3, the swim gala was held and the Sports day to crown the winners of this year's clan competition.

Prefects were given Leadership training by Andy Battell in August and follow up training in September. Prefects are currently mentoring 5th form students managing chairs each morning.

Further work will need to be done with prefects next year to formalise a timetable to meet with their year groups.

The School Support Team has met weekly to identify students experiencing difficulties and connect them with the Pastoral Care Team as needed. It is split into Junior and Senior teams.

2. Digital Teaching & Learning

New students and staff were given training in the use of Teams at the beginning of the year. Refresher training was given to staff on the use of Studyclix at a staff meeting. Staff were shown how to access exam questions, marking schemes and how to build exams using this tool. Based upon feedback from Studyclix, there has been an increased level of engagement by staff using this tool. However, there has been a slight decline in the use of StudyClix by students. The continued use of Studyclix by staff and students is recommended to further embed its use, particularly focussing on use to StudyClix to revise topics. A reminder will be sent to all parents about StudyClix. 1st years will also be made aware of how to use it and its benefits when studying and revising.

First years continue to be timetabled for one class of Computers per week, students were taught the basics of Word and PowerPoint.

School devices were in great demand by students during their CBAs and at other times for use within the class. A number of students used PowerPoint to present their CBAs.

A draft ICT Acceptable Usage policy has been circulated to students and staff. Feedback has been noted. The Usage policy is now ready to be reviewed by Newtown Association.

Staff were given training in how to set up department teams to encourage sharing of resources within the department.

Students were positive in their feedback when asked if their teachers were sharing resources more than last year – with 75% saying yes.

3. Restorative Practice

Whole staff training was provided by Andy Battell on Friday, 25th and 28th August, leading to approximately 75% of staff being fully trained in how to engage in Restorative Practice.

4. Groupwork in class

Increased use of structured Groupwork in class was a target this year. Part of a Croke park hour focussed on the use of team work in class and the benefits of it. However, students, when surveyed, felt that there was not an increase in the use of structured group work in class. Future training will be provided to staff at the start of the school year.

5. Student Leadership

An area of investigation undertaken this year was student leadership. Having completed research, it was deemed difficult to find a student leadership programme to meet the needs of the school. Next academic year will see Newtown conduct further investigations on

developing a system of student participation and leadership that meet the needs of the school. This may include developing mentoring systems to help the transition of new students into Newtown School. Next year it is estimated to be over 25% of the students in the school will be new entrants/

Improvement plan for 2023 - 2024 will focus on

- Increasing the use of structured Groupwork in class
- Transitions & Student Leadership
- Homework and Formative Feedback
- Increased use of Compass

Continuous Professional Development

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

2023-2024

LOOKING AT OUR SCHOOLS

Target	Action	Implementation by	How it will be monitored?
Wellbeing			

Target	Action	Implementation by	How it will be monitored?
Digital			
LAOS: Teachers Individual Practice: The teacher selects and uses planning, preparation and assessment practices that progress students' learning Statement of Highly Effective Practice: Teachers share and co-create success criteria with students so that they can assess their own learning through self-assessment and peer assessment, and identify areas for improvement and strategies to achieve improvement	Staff share relevant resources with students on Teams Staff to promote the use of Studyclix	Whole staff	Survey Usage

Target	Action	Implementation by	How it will be monitored?
<p>LAOS:</p> <p>Domain 4: Teachers Collective/Collaborative</p> <p>Practice: Teachers value and engage in professional learning and professional collaboration</p> <p>Statement of Highly Effective Practice: Teachers view collaboration as a means to improve student learning and also to enhance their own professional learning. They engage in constructive collaborative practice and in collaborative review of practice.</p>	Staff share resources with other staff on Teams	Whole Staff	<p>Surveys</p> <p>Focus group</p>

Target	Action	Implementation by	How it will be monitored?
LAOS: Domain 2 Learner Experience: Students engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities. Statement of Highly Effective Practice: Students are able to learn collaboratively in a very purposeful, creative and productive manner Learner Experience: Students grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive Statement of Highly Effective Practice: Students ask question and suggest possible solutions confidently. They are willing to risk incorrect responses, and understand the value of making mistakes, using them as learning opportunities	Increased use of structured Groupwork in class	Whole Staff	Surveys and Focus groups

Domain 1: Learner Outcomes

Standard	Statements of highly effective practice	Target	Implemented By	Monitoring?
Students enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners				