



SUMMARY OF OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN JUNE 2024

In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning of wellbeing in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:

We discovered that our focus on wellbeing and core values has had a positive impact on our pupils. They have shown increased confidence, improved coping skills, and a greater sense of positivity about themselves. The integration of wellbeing into PE and the Arts, along with our monthly assemblies, has reinforced these values effectively. The DCU Changemaker Schools Network has also played a significant role in fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment.

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

We conducted a self-evaluation by gathering feedback from staff, pupils, and through discussion at our parent association meetings. We reviewed the effectiveness of our wellbeing programme, monitored the integration of wellbeing into various curriculum areas, and assessed the impact of our monthly assemblies. We also applied for OIDE support for PE, added wellbeing to our Croke Park meetings, and engaged in continuous dialogue with the school community, with our pupil wellbeing being central to all discussions.

This is what we are now going to work on:

We will continue the explicit teaching of coping skills and core values through weekly SPHE and GMGY lessons, as well as monthly assemblies. We will incorporate wellbeing across all curriculum areas, continuing with PE and the Arts, and expanding into teaching new primary maths curriculum. We will create a school Active Walkway and promote pupil voice by ensuring their feedback is meaningfully incorporated into school decision-making processes. Additionally, we will develop and implement a comprehensive school-wide spelling plan to support children's learning while promoting their self-confidence, responsibility, and overall wellbeing.

This is what you can do to help:

Parents and guardians can support our efforts by encouraging positive self-talk and coping strategies at home, reinforcing the core values we teach, and participating in school events and initiatives that promote wellbeing. Providing feedback on our policies in development and actively engaging with the parents association will help us create a more inclusive and supportive school environment. Additionally, supporting the 'Strive for 5' attendance campaign will contribute to improving overall pupil attendance.

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.

This year we had 178 school days, from 30/08/2023 to 25/06/2024 and the reasons for the four days less than expected are below:

- 13/11/2023 School closed due to Safety concern due to Storm Debi
- 27/11/2023 Teachers at Primary Maths Curriculum Training in Navan EC
- 08/03/2024 Referendum
- 07/06/2024 Polling Station for LOCAL AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS JUNE 2024

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**. This year we had parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings, all in line with the Department's regulations.

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 Jacqui McCusker

and our Deputy DLP is Saoirse McDermott

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 our admissions policy on: 29 Sep 2023

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

At Faughart Community National School, we promote high attendance by creating a caring and positive school environment where every pupil feels valued and respected. We foster a positive school culture through respectful interactions between pupils and teachers and celebrate the uniqueness of each child. We implement the 'Strive for 5' attendance campaign to motivate students and recognize their commitment to consistent attendance. Additionally, we integrate attendance awareness into our daily routines, class meetings, and school assemblies. Teachers greet pupils each morning, creating a welcoming atmosphere that encourages regular attendance.

This is how you can help:

Parents and carers play a crucial role in promoting high attendance. Here are ways you can support our efforts:

- Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time.
- Schedule appointments and holidays outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Communicate with the school if your child is absent and provide a written explanation.
- Encourage your child's participation in school activities and praise their achievements.
- Discuss the importance of regular attendance and punctuality with your child.
- Engage with the school if there are any concerns about your child's attendance or wellbeing.

By working together, we can create a supportive environment that fosters high attendance and enhances the overall educational experience for our students.

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.

Our code of behaviour at Faughart Community National School is designed to foster a positive learning environment where every pupil feels safe, respected, and valued. By celebrating the uniqueness of each child and personalizing support, we encourage students to strive for high standards in their behaviour. Our approach is rooted in our school values, emphasizing the importance of respectful interactions, diligent work habits, and creative learning. The code of behaviour is regularly reinforced through classroom management strategies, school assemblies, and positive reinforcement programs such as the Caring Citizen Awards, ensuring that every child understands and adheres to these principles.

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school. At Faughart Community National School, our anti-bullying policy is comprehensive and prominently integrated into our school culture. This policy outlines procedures for preventing and addressing bullying, ensuring that every incident is taken seriously and dealt with promptly, in a positive manner. We emphasize the importance of a safe and inclusive environment, where pupils are encouraged to speak out against bullying and support one another. Regular discussions and educational sessions on bullying prevention are held during SPHE and GMGY lessons, as well as in monthly assemblies. By promoting a culture of empathy and respect, we empower students to be proactive in creating a bully-free environment.