



### **Our School Self-Evaluation (SSE) Report and School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

Gort Community School is involved in the School Self Evaluation 2016-2020 Cycle. School self-evaluation is a collaborative, inclusive, and reflective process of internal school review. An evidence-based approach, it involves gathering information from a range of sources, and then making judgements. All of this is done with a view to bring about improvements in students' learning. As part of this process a few stages were completed by gathering evidence during surveys undertaken of students, parents and teachers.

**We have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. Our main areas of focus for this cycle of SSE are:**

- Implementation of Microsoft 365 as an Online Platform for Teaching & Student Learning
- Teacher led collaboration in the sharing of methodologies and resources
- Embedding 'Learning to Learn' strategies such as VARK and CAT4 testing.

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

- Regular upskilling of staff through the Digital Leaders Staff Team and use of Croke Park hours for training in Microsoft 365. Shared feedback from the Digital Leaders Staff Team and from staff at Croke Park training on what was working well and what we could improve on.
- Time allocated at all staff meetings for staff presentations on Teaching and Learning provided an open forum for collaboration and discussion on improving Teaching and Learning
- Regular surveys of students and teachers through Microsoft 365. Feedback from surveys was reviewed, collated and examined

**This is what we are now going to work on:**

- Further embedding of the Microsoft 365 platform for all students and staff
- Comprehensive Study Skills Programme to further embed "Learning to Learn" strategies and student engagement in learning
- Co-Teaching

**This is what you can do to help:**

- Familiarise yourself with the school Microsoft 365 platform for Teaching and Learning
- Encourage your child to engage regularly in this online platform
- Discuss VARK learning styles with your child. It is beneficial to know what type of learner your child is to encourage them to grow their strengths and tackle their areas that need improvement. See the VARK section of our school website to find out more and take the VARK test <http://www.gortcs.com/students/vark-learning-to-learn/>
- Support your child's VARK learning style by creating a supportive study area at home
- Encourage your child to use their VARK learning style to create good study habits
- Continue to liaise with your child's class teachers to support their Engagement in Learning

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**.

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 6 parent/teacher meetings and 4 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.

All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Brian Crossan

Our Designated Deputy DLP is Mrs. Margaret Linnane

### ***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 (and updated) our admissions policy on 28th April 2020.

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance and provide full attendance certificates to students.

### ***Positive behaviour for a happy school***

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour and asks us to consult parents and students about it.

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour.

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.