

School Self-Evaluation



The following initiatives have gone through the six-stage process in St. Mac Dara's CC:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Positive Reinforcement
- Ethos (completed in one academic year '22-23)

Literacy

St. Mac Dara's promotes literacy throughout the entire school across all subjects. Literacy is not specific to English as good literacy skills are vital in every subject. All teachers encourage students to identify key words and expand their vocabulary. Teachers of all subjects pay attention to capital letters, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Several literacy initiatives are ongoing within the school such as the 'Book in a Bag' policy, whereby we encourage all students to have a book with them in school, the school library is open every week to both junior and senior students, and there are book clubs happening throughout the course of the year. Summer reading lists are also provided to students who wish to get involved in a reading challenge over the holidays.

Numeracy

Like literacy, numeracy is not only relevant to one subject area. Students are encouraged to use their numeracy skills across all subjects. Maths week is celebrated annually, where students have a chance to engage in national competitions.

Numeracy strategies in place include:

- Tests returned in fraction form to students
- SALT approach to graphing
- Moments of numeracy highlighted in all subject areas

Positive Reinforcement

This strand directly related to student wellbeing and sought to generate a sense of pride for students in their work and behaviours. Using our behaviour tracking system, VSware, teachers are encouraged to record positive comments for students online. This involved streamlining the existing behaviours and making them more suitable to our student cohort. Students can receive points for being helpful to others, working well in class, contributing in extra-curricular, being respectful and many others.

Students are recognised by tutors and year heads for exemplary contributions.

Ethos

Our most recent strand is linked to the ETBI Ethos. Ethos is how we live, work and relate to each other in our school community. While it encompasses the curriculum and how it is taught, ethos is broader than this. It also relates to shared core values, to the hidden curriculum, to decision-making processes and to the relationships that underpin the daily life of school.

ETB schools are state, co-educational, multidenominational schools underpinned by five core values:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

Students are nominated by class tutors and teachers to receive Ethos Awards at their monthly assemblies.

All stakeholders were invited to partake in a survey related to the core values above. For the purpose of the 2022-23 academic year, the values of community and equality are the areas of focus. These will be evaluated further in the next academic year.