



NORTH WICKLOW  
EDUCATE TOGETHER  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

## ***OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN***

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

The standard of our assessment feedback is very high and we are happy that we share descriptors and success criteria with families and students in advance.

We value student voice in our assessment of work which is why we record and email home sound files of student/ teacher interviews highlighting what went well and even better if.

We have developed a learner-focused environment in nearly all classes with a huge range of extended learning experiences including cross-curricular work, phenomenon based learning and extra-curricular activities.

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

We polled parents in a survey about assessment as well as teaching and learning.

We established lunchtime community of practice meetings for teachers to talk about excellent practice.

We asked Bridge 21, JCT and the NCCA to work with us on developing excellent 'next' practice in assessment.

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

A whole school approach to homework is required to establish excellent practice in setting relevant and learner-focused homework.

The feedback we give in our assessment reports needs to be more consistently applied in homework and classwork also.

We also need to give parents/carers/guardians more information through the PSA, for example, about assessment models with which they may be unfamiliar.

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

Ask your child what they are doing at school and talk to them about what happens there.

Come to school events with your child even if they are not directly involved.

Support the school in applying its code of behaviour, the core purpose of which is to support and encourage learning and teaching.

Expect the best of your child.

**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**.

This year we had **167** school days, from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016 until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. Our school week is **28** hours long.

The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**.

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time. **YES / NO**

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**.

This year we had **1** parent/teacher meetings and **10** 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 / NO**

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

**YES / NO**

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Jonathan Browner (Principal) and our Deputy DLP is Pádraig Conaty (Deputy Principal.)

### ***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 / NO**

We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on: **October 2016**

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required. **YES / NO**

**We encourage high attendance in the following ways:**

By notifying you by text if your child is late, by tracking attendance and lateness regularly and by highlighting the issue in care team meetings and at school assembly.

**This is how you can help:**

By recognising that a partnership between home and school is key to success for students. By supporting the school in making sure that your child is always on time and that they never miss school unnecessarily.

***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. We do this. **YES / NO**

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour. **YES / NO**

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school. **YES / NO**