

CBS Dungarvan



Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan 2017/2018

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:

We evaluated the following aspect of teaching and learning:

Formative Assessment, with a focus on written feedback and the implementation of the “2 Stars & a Wish” strategy. (Two Stars – areas where the student’s work excelled and one Wish – an area where there can be some level of improvement.)

We found that good practice already exists in the school with evidence of regular constructive, developmental oral and written feedback from teachers to students.

60% of teachers in the school have adopted the “2 Stars & a Wish” strategy when providing students with feedback.

“2 Stars & a Wish” stickers were created for teachers for ease of use when providing students with feedback.

Teachers who implemented the “2 Stars and a Wish” strategy found merit in it and felt it helped students to progress.

Having introduced the “2 Stars & a Wish,” only 55% of 1st year students found the “2 Stars & a Wish” helpful while 75% found written comments from teachers useful.

Response from 1st year students in relation to “2 Stars & a Wish” was very positive however they were eager to have a grade also.

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

Staff Meetings gave teachers an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the feedback we give to our students, in particular “2 Stars & a Wish” strategy.

A Focus group (SSE Team) was established to discuss Formative Assessment, with a focus on written feedback & “Two Stars & a Wish.”

All 1st year students participated in two student surveys focusing on feedback. This survey identified their perspectives on teacher feedback on their work prior to the implementation of “2 Stars & a Wish” and after. These results were analysed by the SSE Team.

A random selection of first year students were asked for verbal feedback in relation to what they thought of “2 Stars & a Wish” at the end of the study.

This is what we are now going to work on:

Survey results indicated that 72% of students preferred means of feedback from a teacher was written and grade. It was evident also from talking to students that they want “2 Stars & a Wish” with a grade. As a result stickers will be designed with 1 Star, 1 Wish & a box for a grade.

A number of teachers & students felt the stickers may have been too childish for a secondary school setting and therefore have adopted their own means of providing feedback in line with “2 Stars & a Wish” strategy or chose to use it for junior cycle students only.

Those teachers who used the “2 Stars and a Wish” strategy found genuine merit in its use therefore it is our aim to encourage more teachers to adopt the “2 Stars & a Wish” strategy as it is of benefit to the student in terms of motivation and improvement.

Some teachers struggled to find two comments for the two stars and did not want to leave it blank as it may demotivate the student.

Teachers felt that the “2 Stars & a Wish” should not be restricted to 1st year classes. Therefore it will be adopted with other Junior Cycle years.

The “2 Stars & a Wish” strategy did not suit all types of homework/student work. But by adopting it to “1 Star & a Wish” with a grade then more teachers could adopt it and it would be used on a whole-school basis.

This is what you can do to help:

Take time to read comments with your son so that you are both aware of your son’s strengths and areas of improvement.

Encourage your son to read comments given by teachers.

Discuss with your son what he needs to do to make improvements in his school work.

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 Friday 25th August to Friday 1st June. Our school week is 28 hours.

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 six parent/teacher meetings and 6 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 parents about them and how we follow them.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Paul Sheehan and our Deputy DLP is Ms. Brenda Kirwan

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: 23rd May 2018

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- Attendance Officer in place who monitors attendance and reports to Year Heads if there are concerns
- Assisting students to feel a connection with the school. (Extra-curricular activities/Interactions with teachers/Acknowledgement of achievements etc.)
- Good communication with parents.

- Students are required to their Year Head with a note from parent/guardian on their return to school after being absent.

This is how you can help:

- Encourage full attendance in school where possible.
- Encourage your son to be punctual.
- Educate your son on the importance of good attendance.
- Ensure notes are sent to school if your son is absent.
- Maintain good communication channels with the school regarding your son.

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.

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour.

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