



**St. Aloysius Secondary School.
Sharman Crawford Street,
Cork.
62630J**

**OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023-
2024**

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:

- Dedicated, hardworking, approachable staff who demonstrate a genuine interest in each student's progress to achieve her potential.
- Cooperative students who do their best and whose needs are at the heart of the learning process.
- Inclusion as a lived part of school-life.
- Excellent sense of belonging in the school due to atmosphere, relationships, communication, activities.
- Strong emphasis on effective communication between staff, students and parents underpinning the positive relationships between all.
- Staff commitment to CPD and the willingness to engage in new methodologies and to share these with colleagues and to team teach.
- Excellent facilities and resources in a warm, attractive environment to support teaching and learning.
- Effective pastoral care structures to support students.
- Superb I.T. facilities.
- Print-rich classrooms and corridors to celebrate student work and promote literacy.
- Strong emphasis on student wellbeing.
- High expectations instilled in pupils to work, to attend class, to be punctual, to build routine and balance in their lives and to achieve to their personal best.
- Learning that is student-centred and active –students are supported and cared for and their needs are met to ensure that learning can be achieved by all.
- Facilitation of homework club and afterschool study to support student learning.
- Use of variety of teaching methodologies, with skilled proficiency in mixed ability teaching and adept use of appropriate differentiation.
- Well planned and paced lessons to support all learners.
- A culture of collaboration within and across subject departments underpinned by a strong work ethic and effective communication.
- Diverse range of extracurricular activities to help students' holistic development.
- Small class sizes that support pupils' learning.
- Excellent academic results in State examinations.

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

- Surveys conducted of students, parents and staff.
- Whole-staff discussions at staff meetings.
- Feedback from student assemblies, Student Council, Parents Association, subject department meetings, Wellbeing Committee meetings, Digital Team meetings, SSE team meetings, and Year Head and Class Teacher meetings.

This is now what we are going to work on:

In line with Circular 0056/2022 issued by the Department of Education and Skills and the Inspectorate, we will be working on:

1. Embedding strategies to deepen student understanding and develop their answers at Junior Cycle level;
2. Display prominently key exam terminology required by pupils to support their access to the curriculum in each subject area.
3. Review the numeracy policy in each subject department and adopt a specific numeracy focus in each subject area;
4. Expand the use of group work.
5. Research which digital writing tools could support teaching and learning in our school.
6. Continue and complete work on achieving Belong To LGBTQ+ Quality Mark.
7. Continue to promote the wellbeing of all in St. Aloysius and make wellbeing more visible.

This is what you can do to help:

1. Encourage your daughter to teach you what she has learned in any subject on any given day. Ask her to take you step by step through the topic.
2. Encourage your daughter to use the school library and read as often as possible.
3. Use everyday situations to practise Maths such calculating money, estimating cost/distance/time intervals, problem-solving.
4. Encourage your daughter to spend time on her homework each day, both revision and written tasks.
5. Attend the parent teacher meeting.
6. Talk with your daughter about her progress after the parent teacher meeting.
7. Have a conversation about feedback given in Christmas and summer report cards.
8. Invite your daughter to regularly reflect on her strengths as a learner and how she could improve further.
9. Encourage your daughter to ask questions if she does not understand a topic or an aspect of a topic.
10. Consider after school study as a practical way to support your daughter's learning.
11. Talk about the benefits and the challenges of team work .
12. Complete surveys sent to you via the School App.