



SUMMARY OF OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN JUNE 2025

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

This year, we continued to focus on wellbeing as a core element of teaching and learning at Faughart CNS. We found that our emphasis on pupil voice, core values, and inclusive initiatives has further enhanced our school culture. Pupils demonstrated increased confidence, improved attendance, and more positive attitudes towards learning, particularly in spelling and maths. Our assemblies, advisory groups, and the 'Strive for 5' campaign have created meaningful spaces for recognition, motivation, and connection. The integration of wellbeing into SPHE, GMGY, and other curriculum areas—supported by the DCU Changemaker Schools Network—continues to foster a sense of belonging and inclusion across the school. The positive impact of this work is visible not only in pupil wellbeing but also in improved academic outcomes

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

This year, we continued our self-evaluation by gathering feedback from pupils through classroom discussions, pupil advisory groups, pupil forums as well as through regular pupil-led initiatives such as creative challenges and wellbeing assemblies. Staff reflections, professional dialogue, and observations during GMGY and SPHE lessons also informed our review. We monitored the implementation of our whole-school spelling plan and the integration of wellbeing into areas like PE, the Arts, and maths. Attendance patterns were tracked closely through the 'Strive for 5' initiative. We also prioritised time in staff meetings to focus on wellbeing, Bí cineálta policy and shared teaching strategies, while identifying the need for further collaborative planning time. Wellbeing remained central to all discussions, guiding our improvements and affirming our commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive school environment.

This is what we are now going to work on:

We will build on the strong foundations established this year by embedding our whole-school spelling plan and continuing the explicit teaching of coping skills and core values through SPHE, GMGY, and monthly assemblies. Wellbeing will remain a key focus across the curriculum, with particular attention to the new Primary Maths Curriculum and its playful, inclusive approach. We will further develop our outdoor learning environment by creating an Active Walkway with positive active pitstops and investing in equipment to support outdoor, STEM, and creative learning. Pupil voice will continue to shape school life through surveys, advisory groups, and suggestion channels. Looking ahead, we will prioritise increased collaboration and shared planning among staff to support the implementation of new curriculum areas, ensuring our approach remains cohesive, inclusive, and centred on pupil wellbeing.

This is what you can do to help:

Parents and guardians can continue to support our wellbeing focus by encouraging healthy routines, positive attitudes to learning, and the use of coping strategies at home. Talking positively about school, spelling, and maths can help build your child's confidence and resilience. We invite you to share feedback with our school throughout the year. Supporting your child's participation in school activities, such as creative challenges, family projects, Faughartvision etc will help them feel empowered and included. Finally, promoting regular school attendance and encouraging involvement in the 'Strive for 5' campaign will continue to strengthen our shared commitment to pupil wellbeing and success.

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 primary schools to have **182 school days** each year.

This year we had 179 school days, from 30/08/2023 to 25/06/2024 and the reasons for the three days less than expected are below:

Mon 30 September 2024: Teacher Training Day - Maths Primary Curriculum Day 2 in Navan E.Centre

Fri 29 November 2024: Polling Station for ELECTIONS November 2024

Fri 24 January 2025: Storm Éowyn (red weather warning)

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 parent/teacher meetings and 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

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

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Jacqui McCusker

and our Deputy DLP is Saoirse McDermott

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 our admissions policy on: 11 June 2024

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

At Faughart Community National School, we promote high attendance by creating a caring and positive school environment where every pupil feels valued and respected. We foster a positive school culture through respectful interactions between pupils and teachers and celebrate the uniqueness of each child. We implement the 'Strive for 5' attendance campaign to motivate students and recognize their commitment to consistent attendance. Additionally, we integrate attendance awareness into our daily routines, class meetings, and school assemblies. Teachers greet pupils each morning, creating a welcoming atmosphere that encourages regular attendance.

This is how you can help:

Parents and carers play a crucial role in promoting high attendance. Here are ways you can support our efforts:

- Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time.
- Schedule appointments and holidays outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Communicate with the school if your child is absent and provide a written explanation.
- Encourage your child's participation in school activities and praise their achievements.
- Discuss the importance of regular attendance and punctuality with your child.
- Engage with the school if there are any concerns about your child's attendance or wellbeing.

By working together, we can create a supportive environment that fosters high attendance and enhances the overall educational experience for our students.

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour and asks us to consult parents and children about it. We do this.

Our code of behaviour at Faughart Community National School is designed to foster a positive learning environment where every pupil feels safe, respected, and valued. By celebrating the uniqueness of each child and personalizing support, we encourage students to strive for high standards in their behaviour. Our approach is rooted in our school values, emphasizing the importance of respectful interactions, diligent work habits, and creative learning. The code of behaviour is regularly reinforced through classroom management strategies, school assemblies, and positive reinforcement programs such as the Caring Citizen Awards, ensuring that every child understands and adheres to these principles.

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school. At Faughart Community National School, our anti-bullying policy is comprehensive and prominently integrated into our school culture. This policy outlines procedures for preventing and addressing bullying, ensuring that every incident is taken seriously and dealt with promptly, in a positive manner. We emphasize the importance of a safe and inclusive environment, where pupils are encouraged to speak out against bullying and support one another. Regular discussions and educational sessions on bullying prevention are held during SPHE and GMGY lessons, as well as in monthly assemblies. By promoting a culture of empathy and respect, we empower students to be proactive in creating a bully-free environment.