



Kilsheelan NS

School Self Evaluation Review 2022/2023

Introduction

As part of the review process due to be undertaken by schools in the 2022/2023 school year and informed by guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills, Kilsheelan NS has decided to conduct a review of the impact of COVID-19 on pupils' educational experiences and outcomes, their wellbeing, their motivation to learn, and their engagement in learning. This review process and the findings presented will then form the basis for the schools engagement with the third cycle of SSE 2023-2026.

Gathering of Evidence

In conducting our review, we have decided to gather evidence in the following ways:

- Teachers will complete a short survey in advance of staff meeting and we will then facilitate discussion with focus on what we feel have been the key impacts on children's educational outcomes and engagement with learning as a result of COVID-19.
- Surveying parents so as to garner their feedback in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on their children's engagement with learning.
- Conduct a survey with children across the school to determine the impact they feel that COVID-19 has had on their own experiences of school and learning.

Findings

The following are our findings and key areas to note following our gathering of evidence:

- Children across all classes found not meeting friends, not being able to play sport or engage in hobbies and homeschooling to be the most difficult aspects.
- A large number of children did find that spending additional time with family was a benefit of COVID-19
- Most children find that school is much the same post pandemic as it was pre pandemic
- Maths and Gaeilge were found to be the subjects that children found the most difficult post pandemic.
- Parental responses indicated a split in how it was felt COVID-19 affected their children. On one hand, parents felt that COVID-19 had little effect on their children while and the other hand, many felt that there was significant impact on social skills.
- More than half of parents felt that COVID-19 had a significant impact on children's wellbeing, specifically in the areas of social development and anxiety.
- Parents added that online learning had been difficult with motivation and lack of enthusiasm being cited. Parents also felt that children became very dependent on mobile devices as this became the sole source of communication
- Teachers felt that the greatest areas affected were in Literacy followed by Maths and Gaeilge.
- In regard to Maths, it was highlighted during a recent Curriculum Evaluation that a school wide approach to Maths Language be explored. It is felt that this may also be an after effect of COVID-19 where the use and employment of specific Maths Language has been impacted.

- Pupil wellbeing was seen to be affected also with teachers also referencing a lack of motivation to read for pleasure.
- It was noted that incoming Infants were seen to have been impacted by preschool disruptions in the last number of years.

Areas of Focus

Based on our findings, we will be focusing on the following areas going forward:

- Wellbeing Promotion and Review as part of the SSE Process
- Physical Activity
- Social Development
- Reading for Pleasure
- Maths with particular focus on the development of Maths Language

Actions to address Areas of Focus

In order to address these areas, we will:

- Through engagement with the SSE process, the school will conduct a Wellbeing Review and this will form the basis of our SSE over the coming years.
- Explore and create opportunities for physical engagement for all children in a range of fun and inclusive ways.
- Create opportunities for children to engage socially across the entire school and to foster meaningful relationships through the exploration of collaborative and enjoyable initiatives.
- Promote the value in reading for enjoyment and have a range of opportunities where children read to others and be read to themselves.
- Develop children's use of mathematical language and adopt a whole school approach to same with this being reflected in the schools Maths Plan.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This SSE review and its associated targets will be monitored termly as part of staff meetings and will feed into the overall Wellbeing Review.

It will be evaluated in the context of our whole school Wellbeing Review and play an important role in the identification of appropriate targets and actions going forward.