



St. Colman's College

Castlegar,

Claremorris,

Co. Mayo.

64610N

School Self-Evaluation Report

School Improvement Plan

Evaluation period: *September 2019-September 2021*

Report issue date: *January 2020*

Submission to BOM for approval: *12th March 2020*

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School Self-Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of the evaluation: *LI: Aspect of teaching and learning: collaborative learning*

A school self-evaluation of collaborative learning was initially begun in 2018-2019. An advisory visit from the Inspectorate focused our minds more clearly on this and we began collecting data. During the evaluation, teaching and learning in subjects and programmes was evaluated, with particular emphasis on whole school and subject specific collaborative learning. School self-evaluation in this area is essential for school improvement and future development in the area of collaborative learning.

This is a report on the findings of the evaluation.

1.2 School context

St Colman's College is a Catholic voluntary post-primary school for boys only. We are located just outside the town of Claremorris, Co Mayo and our student body is comprised of boys from both rural and urban backgrounds and a range of nationalities. We have seen a rise in student numbers in recent years as the school has become associated with developments in ICT and piloting the iPad/eBook programme.

2. The findings

During the period November –December, students teachers and parents were surveyed in the area of collaborative learning

- 82% of students agree or strongly agree that group work and collaborative learning significantly develops and benefits their learning
- Only 6% of students say they get to experience group work/collaborative learning regularly in most subjects while 47% say they experience it regularly in some subjects
- Only 50% of teachers feel that collaborative learning is being used effectively in their classes
- 38% of parents are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied that their son gets to work learn and work collaboratively in the school.

3. Progress made on previously-identified improvement targets

Not Applicable for Year One as SIP not in place yet

4. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

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Management (including the Board of Management) and staff are profoundly aware of the importance of collaborative learning and are motivated to improve standards in our school.

An AP2 post holder has been given responsibility for leading this and a working group has been established.

4.1 Our school has strengths in the following areas:

- Students, teachers and parents all believe in the benefits and importance of collaborative learning
- Some teachers already regularly use collaborative learning with their students
- Management and the school community are very supportive in improving this area of teaching and learning.

4.2 Targets:

By May 2020:

- We aim to see 65% of students saying they regularly have the opportunity to work in groups in some or most subjects. Possible breakdown of 5% increase in most and 10% increase in some.
- We aim to increase the % of staff who are satisfied with how they use collaborative learning from 50% up to 65%. We also aim to see some movement of staff in to the Very Satisfied cohort.
- We aim to increase the number of parents being satisfied or very satisfied their son engaged in collaborative learning by 10%

5. Actions:

The following targets/aims have been identified and begun to be implemented:

- A Collaborative Learning Policy is being developed for the school.
- Collaborative Learning Posters will be placed in each classroom and around the school.
- A Working Group is being formed to lead this evaluation in the school.
- A student focus group will be formed to capture some qualitative data.
- CPD will be booked on the area of Collaborative Learning for the whole staff.
- The BOM, Parents Association and Student Council will be asked to review the policy.
- A brief presentation will be made to staff at Staff Meeting in Nov 2010 and Jan 2020.
- Staff will review the SIP in Feb 2020.
- A section on Collaborative Learning will be added to the School Plan, Teachers' Handbook and Student Journal.

Alól an Oíge agus tíocaidh síad!

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Ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting of Thursday 12th March, 2020

Signed: John O' Boyle

Chairperson

Jimmy Finn

Principal