

Our School Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan 2022-2023

The Student Support Team is a central team concerned with providing for the welfare and wellbeing of all students. It is a mechanism through which many of the existing student supports (e.g. Junior Cycle Wellbeing Curricular Planning team, the Special Education Needs (SEN) department, guidance counsellors/ pastoral staff) are co-ordinated and planned. Through implementing a Continuum of Support, our Student Support Team aims to provide for the educational, social, emotional, behavioural and learning needs of *All, Some and Few* students to ensure their ongoing wellbeing. The school Guidance Plan sets out the components of this system.

This year, as part of our wellbeing promotion process, we developed and review our Student Support Team structures. This is what we discovered;

- Our student support team has a clear core purpose and each member understands their role.
- Our SST effectively plans for students' needs, ensures interventions are in place and reviews as needed.
- The running of our meetings are very proactive in nature, we adopt a solution focused approach, agree actions and ensure that there is 'follow through'
- Our student support team plays an important role in identifying and forging relationships with external support services and in developing pathways for onward referrals.

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well and what we could be doing better;

- We systematically reviewed our student support team structures in collaboration with our NEPS psychologist using a specifically designed checklist. We rated our current performance according to indicators relating to; purpose, roles& responsibilities, procedures, communication, record keeping, training and outside agencies/policies.
- Our NEPS psychologist attended some of our Student Support Team meetings; this gave us the opportunity to talk about and reflect on how we were performing, to identify areas for development and to create and implement an action plan.
- We attended cluster meetings with other Cork schools to share good practice, to learn from other schools and to collectively problem solve.
- We learned that we can become more systematic in how we support students, by formally recording and responding to concerns, through informed and co-operative decision making and through the division of responsibility.
- It raised our awareness of the continuum of support in the context of our student support team so that we focus on all three layers - support for all, some and a few.

This is what we are now going to work on;

- Enhancing the procedures and documentation for staff who wish to refer a student to the SST.
- Further develop the effectiveness of our meetings; this will be supported by embedding a solution focused problem solving model, creating an agenda, implementing a prioritisation system .
- Awareness of students, parents and staff of the role, structure and processes of the SST.

This is what you can do to help;

- Develop your own awareness of our Student Support Team by engaging with the information which is available on our school website, in 1st year booklet and Parent

information sessions which describes the role, the structures and the processes of the SST.

- Identify your child's year head and how you can contact them .
 - Ask a relevant member of staff if unsure of what the Student Support Team is or what it means for your child's life in school.
 - Share concerns and relevant information with your child's year head - you might have important information about your child that teachers do not know. This could be a particular concern, but it might also relate to; strengths, interests and how best to engage your son/daughter. By sharing this with your child's year head, we can ensure each student reaches their full potential .
 - Inform staff of any changes/ issues. An awareness of collective responsibility which may affect your child's engagement with school life and learning .
 - An awareness of collective responsibility for problem solving and decision making, realising we are all in it together and helping each other out is important .
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- **Ní neart go cur le chéile.**