

Coláiste Phobail Leamhcáin  
Lucan Community College



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire  
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire  
Education and Training Board

Lucan Community College  
Esker Drive, Lucan, Co Dublin  
School Roll Number: 70080T

## School Self-Evaluation Report

Evaluation period: *September 2023 to June 2024*

*Report issue date: 19th June 2024*

*Approved by Board of Management:* \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Management Chairperson

## 1. Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our latest improvement plan, the findings of our self-evaluation and our current improvement plan, including targets and the actions we are in the process of implementing to meet these goals.

In the 2023/2024 school year, our school pursued our targets for the SSE in the following ways:

- Discussed and debated a number of areas of focus for SSE and agreed a new focus, as described in 1.2.
- Provided more subject department time to allow staff to collaborate on SSE focus.
- Continued to work on other areas identified as a priority within a teaching and learning context, specifically linked to supporting numeracy and literacy skills.
- Continued to develop our Schools Digital Plan.
- Developed a Wellbeing plan and held several Wellbeing events throughout the year,
- Embedded and spread our patron's ethos throughout our school community

### 1.1 Outcomes of our last improvement plan from September 2022 to June 2023

- Teaching and Learning groups continued to develop resources, including digital ones, linked to their groups focus.
- As a whole staff it was decided it would be beneficial to transition back to subject departments to continue this work with the ongoing support of T&L groups and digital leaders.
- Digital Leaders provided training to the whole staff on Canva, which tied to the focus of creating resources tailored to the learning intentions of each lesson.

### 1.2 The focus of this evaluation

We undertook self-evaluation of teaching & learning during the period September 2023 to June 2024. The focus of our SSE for 2023/2024 was:

*To develop a whole school approach to check for understanding of learning; this would be supported and developed by increased opportunities for professional development and working collaboratively as a whole staff.*

We referenced the below statements of effective and highly effective practice outlined in LAOS 22:

1. *Teachers identify and engage in professional learning that develops their own practice and meets the needs of students and the school.*
2. *Teachers value their role within a professional learning organisation and, as a matter of course, share their expertise with other teachers in the school.*
3. *Teachers engage regularly in professional collaborative review of learning and teaching practices and use it to identify approaches.*

(LAOS 2022: A Quality Framework for Post-Primary Schools Domain 3: Teachers' Individual Practice)

## 2. Findings

### 2.1 The following are examples of effective/highly effective practice in our school in the listed areas;

#### Teaching and Learning:

- Strong mutual respect continues to exist between staff and students.
- Staff continue to be very supportive and encouraging of students in their care.
- Teachers work collaboratively as a whole and within their departments towards reaching the targets set out in the chosen focus. This includes:

1. Agreeing to use placemats/concept maps as a whole school method of checking for understanding.
2. Sharing examples of best practice and prioritising efforts to address areas that needed improvement.
3. Engaging in CPD as a whole school to better understand concept maps with Barry Bennett.
4. Supporting senior students in their role as Study Leaders.

#### ***Digital Plan***

- A draft digital plan has been put in place.
- The digital leaders continue to offer support to all staff and the Student Digital Leaders have taken up their roles supporting and aiding junior students in improving their digital literacy

#### ***Literacy and Numeracy:***

- Continued strong support among staff for initiatives (Book Club, Maths Hub) aimed at promoting literacy and numeracy within the school.

#### ***Ethos:***

- Our school motto 'Aontas' meaning unity is ingrained in our school community and informs all our actions.
- For the third year consecutive year, the school Ethos team has worked alongside the DDLETB to enhance awareness of the Patrons framework and ensure Ethos is a key component of our SSE.

#### ***Wellbeing:***

- The Wellbeing programme continues for the entire school community – staff, students and parents. Activities are run regularly and participation is encouraged through regular updates.

## **2.2 This is how we know based on evidence such as students' dispositions, attainment, knowledge and skills.**

#### ***Teaching and Learning:***

- All teachers were involved in the Barry Bennett CPD on checking for understanding.
- As a whole school or within departments, we met six times to review and reflect on the use of placemats/concept maps and provide feedback to the SSE co-ordinator. This was an increase from the previous year, where we had three meeting slots with a focus on SSE.
- Examples of placemats/concepts maps are on display in classrooms and on screens within the staffroom.
- 75% of staff that completed the survey, felt that placemats/concept maps were an efficient tool in checking for understanding.
- By the end of the year, the number of students who had utilised a placemat in class had increased by 14%. Many of the students surveyed noted the usefulness of these when preparing for exams and as a tool for assessing areas requiring revision.
- Senior Study Leaders engaged with 1st year students to demonstrate and promote study skills and regularly visited classes.

#### ***Digital Plan***

- Student Digital Leaders visited 1st year SPHE classes. During these sessions they trained 1st years on the digital platforms used most commonly in the school. Afterwards they offered ongoing support.
- The digital plan was established to document and assist in future developments. It is supported by the digital leaders.

#### ***Literacy and Numeracy:***

- Students engaged with Reading Week competitions with certificates and gift vouchers presented. Staff and students engaged with Drop Everything and Read.
- The staff and student Book Clubs continue and the student library was reopened.

- The Maths Hub ran once a week with volunteers from 5th year assisting teachers. Teams were entered into Pi (Junior) and Team Maths (Senior) competitions and certificates were awarded. Plans are in place to include a page in the journal to track attendance and reward students who visit regularly.

**Ethos:**

- The postcard initiative continued with 5 times as many postcards sent out as the previous year.
- Staff held a coffee morning to raise awareness and collect money for a chosen charity.
- During ETB week, a poster competition was run for students with prizes given and lesson resources were shared with staff to use in promoting the school ethos with students.
- Members of the Ethos teams attended the National Ethos symposium to learn more about ways to engage with our patron's framework.

**Wellbeing:**

- A large number of events were held throughout the year to educate staff and students about Wellbeing and provide methods to mind ourselves and each other. Some of these included exercise activities, pottery sessions, refreshments for staff, notes of encouragement for 1st years from Gluais students, wellbeing walks with colleagues and poster competitions.

**2.3 Specify the aspects of teaching and learning the school has identified for improvement.**

**This will be agreed and prioritised by teachers for further improvement at the beginning of the 2024/25 school year.**

- (Teaching & Learning) To expand the current focus of checking for understanding and continuing with the progress made to date.
- (Teaching & Learning) Student Study Leaders will continue their work in a mentor role with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and will hold a workshop for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students.
- (Teaching & Learning) To foster leadership among teachers by utilising CPD opportunities as appropriate.
- (Digital Plan) The draft Digital Plan is to be reviewed and the Digital Leaders Team will agree on a new focus at the beginning of 2024/2025.
- (Literacy) Improve student access and enjoyment of reading through the student book club and school library.
- (Numeracy) Improve student attendance and attitude towards Maths Hub by introducing a reward scheme for attendance and promoting the Hub more regularly.
- (Ethos) The Ethos team supported by all stakeholders in the school will continue to promote and embed the patron's framework throughout our school community.

**3. Our improvement plan**

Teachers will collectively agree and prioritise the next steps of our improvement plan at the beginning of the school year 2024/2025.