

# Website Summary of School Self-Evaluation **Assessment**

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**CBS Kilkenny, 61550G**

**May 2016**



## **1. Introduction**

This School Self-Evaluation (SSE) plan in ASSESSMENT is the third of its kind in a series of self-evaluation projects within CBS Kilkenny. Summaries of these and future plans will be published on the school website, [www.cbsskilkenny.ie](http://www.cbsskilkenny.ie).

## **2. Focus of the Evaluation**

This process of evaluation is carried out in accordance with guidelines published by Department of Education Inspectorate for use in post-primary schools (Dept of Ed Inspectorate, 2012). Using the three themes of Learner Outcomes, Learning Experience and Teachers' Practice, three subthemes were selected for evaluation. These are:

Learner Outcomes:	<b>Attainment</b>
Learning Experience:	<b>Engagement in learning</b>
Teachers' Practice:	<b>Teaching Approaches.</b>

## **3. School Context**

CBS Kilkenny is a voluntary secondary school located in the heart of Kilkenny city. Founded in 1859 by the Christian Brothers, it was transferred to the trusteeship of ERST in 2006. The school has as its mission statement, "Our school, founded by the Christian Brothers, endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students".

CSB Kilkenny has an enrolment of 682 boys and a teaching staff of 43. CBS Kilkenny offers the established JC, LC, TY and LCVP. The school provides instruction in seventeen subjects at JC level and twenty one subjects at LC level. Approximately twenty primary schools in the Kilkenny area are feeder schools to CBS Kilkenny. Enrolment is oversubscribed every year.

## **4. Methodologies and Findings**

Both quantitative and qualitative techniques were employed to gather data in the themed areas over a period of approximately nine months. This included standardised test scores, state examination results and probing surveys of students, parents and teaching staff. These information gathering exercises have provided rich data which has been critically evaluated by management, the Career Guidance and Learning Support departments and subject

teachers. A **School Improvement Planning (SIP) Group** has been established, comprising nine individuals from a broad spectrum of areas within the school. While this group has been consistently involved in all aspects of the process, a significant number of other staff members have also had the opportunity to be involved in SIP.

<b>SIP for Assessment: Aug 2016 to May 2019</b> Themes: Attainment, Engagement in Learning, Teaching Approaches	
Summary of Main Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State exam results are very good and compare well nationally.</li> <li>● Student survey: 76% of students always/almost always are clear on what topic will be on the test.</li> <li>● Student survey: 76% of students say that they get sufficient notice before a test.</li> <li>● Student survey: 79% of students say that they get enough time to complete a test.</li> <li>● Student survey: 48% of students find making their own notes an effective learning tool.</li> <li>● Student survey: 41% of students find rereading and practising an effective learning tool.</li> <li>● Literacy and Numeracy awareness is high.</li> <li>● Large amount of teachers using excellent teaching methodologies and strategies.</li> <li>● Great willingness to share and collaborate ideas and teaching/learning techniques.</li> </ul>
Areas prioritised for Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student survey: 70% of students say that the marking allocation is never or rarely on the exam paper.</li> <li>● Student survey: 93% of students say that they never or rarely use Mapping my Progress page in diary.</li> <li>● Student survey: Only 48% of the students find making their own notes an effective learning tool.</li> <li>● Student survey: 25% of students were not clear of the test material.</li> </ul>
Actions to support implementation of SIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Management</b> : Facilitate and support all aspects of the SSE process, facilitate CPD, facilitate in-house in-service provision, review exam structure, support subject Dept planning, convene regular SIPGroup meetings, drive and support SSE initiative school wide, dedicated tutor time class, allocate LS and extra tuition support where appropriate, emphasise the importance of full attendance, communicate drive for improved presentation to parents, Ensure AUP is reviewed regularly and that all staff are aware of content, provide new grading schemes for all rooms, support development and implementation of Assessment Policy.</li> <li>● <b>Year Heads</b>: Analyse academic reports and identify students of concern, monitor attendance, make representations for LS where appropriate. Spot check student diaries.</li> <li>● <b>Teachers</b>: Provide AfL feedback on presentation, get students to record appropriate exam results in their diary, ensure that the marking allocation is clearly on all exams, implement strategies to incorporate the key skills of <b>Managing Information and Thinking</b>, be aware of AUP policy and internet safety, have student record their test results. Teachers refer to agreed actions below as appropriate and implement the recommendations of the SIP plan. Teachers need to move towards increased digitalisation of records, tests, marking schemes, through a shared folder on Google Drive.</li> <li>● <b>Subject departments</b>: include appropriate reference to Assessment in subject plans and make direct reference to the</li> </ul>

<p>(contd.....)Actions to support implementation of SIP</p>	<p>agreed actions below as appropriate, to implement the recommendations of the SIP Plan, move towards increased digitalisation of records, tests, marking schemes, through a shared folder on Google Drive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Learning Support Dept:</b> Liaise closely with all Departments and Management to identify students of concern and to ensure the effective targeted allocation of resources and support. Practice and focus on note taking skills with students. Implement the recommendations of the SIP plan.</li><li>● <b>SIPGroup:</b> support the implementation of this Plan, to disseminate information to Subject Depts, collaborate regularly, to monitor progress and to reiterate practices until embedded.</li><li>● <b>Parents:</b> to monitor their son's diary and work on a regular basis. To check and sign tests when appropriate. To ensure school attendance and make their son aware of the importance of same.</li><li>● <b>Students:</b> to record homework and appropriate exam results in their diary. To attend school regularly.</li></ul>
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As a parent, we would appreciate your help by encouraging your child to engage fully with all of the Assessment initiatives run in the school.

## **5. Review of the CBS Kilkenny Assessment School Improvement Plan**

This plan will be reviewed annually at the end of May.