

BANDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:

Literacy and Numeracy techniques are widely used in our classrooms.

Digital Learning is a very effective practice in our school.

Formative Assessment continues to be a very effective practice in our school.

Student Feedback is an effective practice in our school.

This is how we know:

Literacy techniques are evident in our classrooms, 76% practice exam papers, 56% highlight key words and 56% work on study skills within their subject.

Numeracy skills were also evident, with 92% of teachers using posters, 84% mind mapping, 43% graphing, and 30% engaging students in calculating their own percentages.

92% of parents have said it has had a positive impact on their child's learning.

97% of parents said that developments in digital technology at B.G.S. have improved their own experience.

88% of teachers felt that digital technology has supported their teaching & learning in the classroom.

82% of teachers voted that their subject department use digital technology effectively to share resources & collaborate on planning.

21% of Form 5 students always get a comment and grade from their teacher, 59.7% say they get comments and marks most of the time. Equally, 34% of form 2 students always get a comment and grade from their teacher, 44% say they get comments and marks most of the time.

49% say teachers check students understand what is being taught throughout the class most of the time in form 5 and 54% in Form 2.

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better:

Students of Form 5 participated in a survey regarding effective Feedback.

We surveyed Form 2 and 5 in relation to Formative Assessment.

Teaching staff participated in our Literacy and Numeracy survey.

We surveyed parents, students, and teachers with regard to our Digital Learning.

This is what we are now going to work on:

-In the coming year we will share tried and tested literacy strategies with teaching staff through our staff newsletter and staff meetings.

-We will work on training specifically for digital learning during staff meetings and on our digital learning plan.

-We endeavour to educate all students on what learning intentions are and use this more in the classrooms.

This is what you can do to help:

-Participate in our Parents Association Committee.

-Browse our website on School Self Evaluation and our school policies.

-Utilise our BGS calendar which is available to parents to help inform them of activities and arrangements for all school-based activities.

-Check your child's journal regularly, especially junior classes.

-Ensure they are using the journal correctly and recording work to be completed for each subject also noting study that they will do.

-Ensure your child takes greater ownership and responsibility for their learning.

-Ensure your child understands the importance of the formative feedback they receive from the teachers. Your child should be clear on what steps they need to take to reach their full potential.

-Support us with the Code of Positive Behaviour.

Here is some information about how we are carrying out our work and about what the Department of Education and Skills requires us to do.

School time and holidays

The Department requires all post-primary schools to have 167 school days each year.

YES

This year we had 164 school days, from 27th August to 3rd June. Two days were lost to storm closures and one for Junior Cycle staff training.

The Department sets out a standardised school year and school holidays.

YES

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time.

The Department sets out arrangements for parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings.

YES

This year we had six parent-teacher meetings and eight staff meetings, all in line with the Department's regulations.

Looking after the children in our school

The Department requires schools to follow the *Child Protection Procedures* it has set down.

YES

Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this.

All teachers know about the *Procedures*, and we have told all parents about them & how we follow them.

YES

These are on our school website and also circulated via the annual school newsletter before the start of the school year.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mr. Ian Coombes** .

And our Deputy DLP is **Mrs. Sonya Macken**.

Enrolment and attendance

The Department requires schools to have and publish an admissions policy, to record and report attendance accurately, and to encourage high attendance and participation.

YES

- We have an admissions policy, and it is published.
- We reviewed, and updated, our admissions policy on the 7th of September 2021.
- We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- Provide a classroom climate and classroom management that support participation and engagement, especially with students who may be at risk of poor attendance.
- Set high expectations for punctuality and attendance in our classroom.
- Set examples by our own punctuality.
- Ensure attendance data are recorded accurately and reviewed in line with school procedures.
- Alert relevant staff if there are concerns about student absences.
- Support the attendance plan for students who have difficulty in attending school on a regular basis.
- Support students on return when they have missed periods of schooling.

This is how you can help:

- Set high standards for your child in relation to attendance and punctuality.
- Engage with the school if there is a problem about your child's attendance and support plans to address the problem.
- Ensure that your child regularly attends and arrives at school on time.
- Avoid taking your child out of class unless there is a serious reason.

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour and asks us to consult parents and children about it.

YES

- We do this through the Parents Representative Association and the Student Council.
- Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour.
- We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.