



**Beech Hill College**  
Monaghan

## **OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

### **Some Summary Points**

**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:**

Our student retention to Leaving Certificate & Junior Certificate/Cycle is 98% & 97% respectively

The majority of students surveyed feel they are listened to by our school.

Over half of our students report various teaching methodologies including group work.

Most students feel free to answer questions without being asked by name to do so.

Students like the various classroom layouts including blocks of four desks.

The vast majority of students are happy we moved from 36 minute to 58 minute classes.

3 in 4 of our third year students said they learned a lot from their respective CBAs (Classroom Based Assessments) and a significant portion of students moved up one descriptor level (awards)

The vast majority of our teachers feel they can make a real contribution to numeracy & that they have a responsibility to both activate & embed numeracy skills for our students.

A wide variety of feedback to students is given by our teachers e.g. verbal, percentages, grades, written comments and so on.

Our student attendance is very strong averaging at just under 90%

The majority of students expressed some confidence in tackling numeracy related problems.

Parents believe that Junior Cycle reform measures have been fully implemented & explained.

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

We analysed the school records on attendance, student journals, results etc.

We surveyed Junior School students in November 2017 (81 students) and again in January 2018 (67 students).

We consulted with parents at e.g. "Parents Junior Cycle Information" meeting in late January 2018 in association with our Parents' Association.

We surveyed teachers in March 2018 and had follow up staff discussions in both March & April 2018.

**This is what we are now going to work on:**

Continue to further activate and embed both literacy and numeracy confidence amongst our students e.g. expansion of our Accelerated Reading Programme, adoption of whole school strategies to enhance “Numeracy” e.g. percentages and in-house exams, “guess/do/review”, highly visible numeracy related information around the building etc.

Enhance the variety and quality of opportunities for progressive and meaningful feedback that results in “assessment for learning” in conjunction with “assessment of learning” e.g. whole school approach to “in-house exams & student self-reflection”, adoption of classroom strategies allowing student feedback e.g. use of traffic lights, emojis etc.

Continuing to promote student attendance and progression towards Leaving Certificate & Further Education use of “Everyday Counts” weeks, special events, recording systems, attendance awards etc.

Deepen our understanding of our relationship with our parents and strengthen the link between school and home e.g. continue to encourage the use of school journals, obtain views of parents (Parent Voice) etc.

**This is what you can do to help:**

School policies – read & discuss our school policies in partnership with you son/daughter,

Weekly signature – continue to check the school journal weekly for comments from teachers,

Note the dates for Parent/Teacher meetings and make a special effort to attend or make an alternative appointment.

Continue to encourage you son/daughter to embrace all opportunities given to them to excel in every way possible.

***“Practice the philosophy of continuous improvement – get a little bit better every single day” [Author Unknown]***

**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, and a **28-hour school week**.

This year we had 167 school days, from August 29th to June 1st. Our school week is 28 hours.

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

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

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

This year we had 5 parent/teacher meetings and 5 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. 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 and how we follow them.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Patrick McArdle (Principal) and our Deputy DLP is Ms. Siobhán Sheerin (Deputy Principal).

We have adopted and are in complete compliance with the new "General Data Protection Regulation 2018".

### **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.

We have an admissions policy and it is published.

We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on:

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance throughout our school year with special themed events encouraging students to make attendance a priority e.g. "*everyday counts*" programme, attendance awards etc.

### **Positive behaviour for a happy school**

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour, and asks us to consult parents and students about it e.g. we have recently consulted parents regarding the use of digital devices and have altered our Code of Behaviour around their use throughout the school day.

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour – it includes both rewards and sanctions. We also have a very clear & high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.