



OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2019-2020

1. In the last year, we have looked at the areas of **wellbeing and creativity** our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:

Wellbeing:

- Wellbeing is a cornerstone of our ethos.
- Staff are committed to promoting wellbeing and modelling positive attitude.
- Parents are supportive of wellbeing initiatives.
- Language of wellbeing is communicated through our Value of the Month parent updates. It is taught in class as part of ethical education/SPHE.
- Staff fully engaged with phased pilot of Weaving Wellbeing (WW) Programme.
- BOM supported whole staff in-service in Weaving Wellbeing Programme.
- All pupils from second to sixth class currently engaged with Weaving Wellbeing Programme.

Creativity/ Arts Education:

- METNS has a long history of engagement with the arts and with artists in disciplines such as visual arts, music, film, literature and dance.
- We have formed strong supportive relationships with outside specialist agencies.
- Parents/Guardians, our MCA (METNS Community Association) and BOM all support school based Arts Education initiatives.
- Parent volunteer rate is high with many parents keen to share specialist knowledge.
- Teachers and SNAs have a high level of interest, skill and competency in Arts Education.

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

Wellbeing:

- Staff survey 2017-18.
- Attendance level at talks and wellbeing events is very high.
- Language of wellbeing disseminated via email, website, on junior and senior Ethos Boards and at assemblies.
- Parents and MCA support for Values of Month initiative shown through engagement with events to support lived ethos, e.g. Wellness Room at Winter Fair, Grateful Bake, Healthy Eating Policy, etc.
- All staff attended Weaving Wellbeing in-service.
- Monthly Reports reflect whole school engagement with Weaving Wellbeing Programme.
- Pupil survey is planned for final term.
- On-going review at staff meetings.

Creativity/ Arts Education:

- As part of our twentieth birthday celebrations, we produced a book documenting all the artist residencies, which took place to date, as part of our continuing Parting Gift programme for sixth class.
- METNS has on-going links with cultural institutions like The Ark, IMMA, The National Gallery, The Lexicon, FIS Film Initiative, The IADT, Poetry Ireland, Pushkin Prizes, Children's Books Ireland, The Mill Theatre, DLCC funded initiatives and Dance Theatre Ireland. We are currently participating in the Arts Council's Creative Schools programme and working with Music Generation.
- Parents/Guardians, our MCA and BOM have provided funding, hands-on practical support through classroom facilitation, accompanied groups on tours/trips to cultural institutions and also alerted staff to initiatives and possible projects.
- METNS staff have specialist knowledge and skills across a range of arts disciplines including visual arts, music, dance, drama and literature.
- Our Creative Schools committee is comprised of parents and teachers with specialist knowledge in this area, who are keen to share their experience and practice.
- We have a record of pupils' voices and opinions through workshops facilitated by our Creative Associate, Blaithín Quinn.

This is what we are now going to work on:

Wellbeing

Proposed Actions 2019-20

- Committee established to staffroom refurb to promote teacher wellbeing to complete works over summer and add finishing touches in September (Staff wish to extend message of thanks to BOM for financial support).
- As part of our ethical programme, monthly values explored to reflect theme of wellness.
- Language and images linked to values to be displayed on a designated noticeboard in foyer and in infant corridor.
- Parent body notified re focus and will be updated monthly by email and on website.
- Student assembly to include focus on monthly value.
- Weaving Wellbeing pilot programme to be extended to include all mainstream classes with support to class teachers (CTs) by support teachers (STs) for designated children.
- Mentoring to be provided to new staff on WW programme
- ISM CT to distribute SPHE folders for all teachers produced to integrate themes and learning objectives from WW, Stay Safe, SPHE and RSE.
- Appropriate in-service training sought for teachers and SNAs, e.g. Wellness through PE, Blackrock Teachers' Centre (BTC) supports.
- Wellness noticeboard continued in staff room with special duties post holder given responsibility for this area.
- Volunteers to continue to co-ordinate/ order take away monthly staff lunch.
- Ethos Committee/MCA to plan for promotion of wellness for children at community events, such as Winter Fair, Clothes Sale for Sustainability in April, Healthy Body, Happy Mind focus in June.
- Engage yoga teacher Caragh Egan to work with all classes for six week blocks, to be funded by MCA
- Staff to begin draft Wellbeing policy for METNS. Committee needed to advance plan.

This is what you can do to help:

- Make wellbeing a priority at home. Talk about tools of resilience with your child.
- We welcome your continued support for our Values of the Month. You will receive a regular monthly update with suggested activities for home.
- Remember to support our Healthy Lunch Policy.
- Pupils from second to sixth class will have Weaving Wellbeing homework. Talk about the topics covered in school with your child.
- Make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher if your child encounters any difficulty, either socially or educationally.
- We will give Creative Homework once per half term. Please support your child on these occasions and enjoy being creative together.
- Nourish your child's signature strengths.
- Watch our Creative Schools notice board and our website for updates on activities.
- Please continue to support the initiatives led by our MCA and our Ethos Committee.
- Volunteer if you have any skill or interest to share.
- Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown has so many amenities and locally based organisations to help foster wellbeing and creativity. Get out and about and make sure to link in to those.
- Let us know if you hear of any initiative, which may be of interest to the children at METNS.

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 primary schools to have **183 school days** each year. This year we have 183 school days, from August 28 2019 to June 26th.

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**.

We comply fully with these directives. P/T meetings held during the week of Jan 20th-24th 2020. We hold weekly school development meetings on a Wednesday after school.

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: AnnMarie Kenrick
and our **Deputy DLP is:** Dolores O Donnell

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, January 2020

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways:

- helping parents/guardians understand the importance of daily attendance
- supporting families when life throws difficult challenges at them.