



# ABBHEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## School Self-Evaluation Update

May 2024

### What is School Self-Evaluation (SSE)?

School Self-Evaluation (SSE) is the name given to the process to help improve our school. All members of our school community work together to critically reflect on current provision and affirm good practice. It allows us to collaboratively identify areas that could be improved to benefit student learning experiences and outcomes.

### SSE FOCUS AREA – WELLBEING / ETHOS

#### Wellbeing/ Ethos Targets

Promote respect amongst our school community whereby all members engage in positive relationships with each other.

Promote the meaning and role of Ethos in our school community focusing on the core value of respect.

- Abbey Community College has been **recognised by the PDST (Oide) as an effective participant in the School Self Evaluation process for Wellbeing**. We were privileged to work with the NEPS Wellbeing Office in the Department of Education and record footage as part of a national communication campaign to promote wellbeing in education.
- Abbey Community College **attended KCETB's Ethos Showcase and presented our whole-school project - Mainistreacha an Choláiste**. Students further explored the rich history of our school by researching their class names – all named after Irish Abbeys. This enhanced their understanding of the important foundations of our school and the influences they have on our school's unique character.
- Members of **staff have continued to upskill in the area of Restorative Practice**. We aim to introduce a **student module in Restorative Practice next year** as part of our Junior Cycle Wellbeing programme.



### SSE FOCUS AREA – LEARNING AND TEACHING

#### Learning and Teaching Overview

The 2023/ 2024 school year saw us embark on a new cycle of SSE for Learning and Teaching in our school.

Identifying Areas of Focus and Gathering Evidence by analysing LAOS, considering our school context, and conducting surveys and focus groups informed the work of our Action Research Team (summarised in the adjacent table).

Looking towards the 2024/ 2025 school year, our robust SSE process will see our specific Learning and Teaching Targets set and our improvement plan shared. Key Practices will then be implemented across the whole school as we continue to work together towards Excellence in Education.

#### Learning and Teaching Action Research

<b>Why engage in Action Research?</b>	Action Research is a crucial component of the SSE Process. It involves teachers actively trialling areas of focus to determine the feasibility of implementation and the impact on learning and teaching before embedding practices across the whole school.
<b>Who and what was involved?</b>	Ten teachers from across a variety of subject departments implemented the Key Practices outlined below. They were provided with templates for Retrieval Practice exercises and created their own subject specific exercises which will be shared with their departments.

#### What Key Practices were Trialled?

#### Rationale for Choosing these Areas of Focus

<p>Write/ Project the <b>date in full</b> on the board and students take it down into their copies/ on sheets etc</p>	<p>To promote literacy and numeracy</p>
<p>Write/ Project the main <b>Learning Intention</b> on the board and get students to write it into copies/ on sheets</p>	<p>To provide a common approach to starting each lesson</p>
<p>Engage students in 5 minutes of <b>Retrieval Practice</b> at the start of the lesson</p>	<p>To engage students meaningfully in the assessment of their own learning</p>
	<p>To utilise Retrieval Practice as a tool for learning and assessment</p>

#### Feedback from Teachers on the Action Research Team

- "Date and learning intention added more structure to each student's copy"
- Retrieval Practice:** "Great way to get students involved in their learning"  
"Enabled me to identify students that were struggling"  
"Helped with memory recall and understanding"  
"Great tool for revision; it allows students to see what they know and what they are missing"



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