

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION – (SSE)

- **Formally introduced into Irish School System in 2012. Circular 0040/2012 required all schools to engage in SSE and set out the purpose and rationale. Our school took this on and worked on Literacy from January 2012. Then Numeracy from 2014/15.**
- **Circular 0040/2016 sets out how schools should continue to implement SSE from 2016 – 2020.**
- **What is SSE?
“A Collaborative, reflective process of internal school review, focused on school improvement”. It further develops the school development planning process and puts the focus firmly on teaching and learning.**
- **DES expectation re SSE**
 1. **Schools will continue to use SSE process in the 2016 to 2020 period to maintain a meaningful focus on Literacy & Numeracy (L&N).**
 2. **Also use SSE to assist in introducing and embedding the Framework for Junior Cycle 2015.**

SSE Guidelines focus is on Teaching and Learning which is the core work of every school. It views learning as “holistic and as intrinsic to the development of students’ well-being”.

By reflecting on what/how teachers teach and on what/how students learn, schools will become aware that some parts of their work are effective whilst others are in need of improvement.

SSE process requires schools to address a number of key questions with regard to it’s work

- **How well are we doing?**
- **How do we know?**
- **How can we find out more?**
- **What are our strengths?**
- **What are our areas for improvement?**
- **How can we improve?**

It is an evidence based approach.

School Self Evaluation is a Six Step Process.

1. **Identify / Focus on an area**
2. **Gather Evidence**
3. **Analyse & make judgements**
4. **Write/Share report and Implement Plan**
5. **Put Improvement Plan into Action**
6. **Monitor Actions**

- The first three steps - Identify / Focus, Gather Evidence, Analyse & make judgements – are the investigation phase of the process and a timeframe of one year is suggested for this work.
- Step 3 – Analyse & make judgements – is based on data gathered. Schools should affirm their good practice and acknowledge areas that will be prioritised for improvement. To help objectivity schools are asked to judge quality using statements of practice. These statements are given levels – “effective” or “highly effective”.
- Step 4 - Write/Share SSE Report and School Improvement Plan (SIP) – is where the school records it’s evaluations and describes the actions for improvement. This report and School Improvement Plan (SIP) is shared with the BOM, Parents.

Template for SSE- School Improvement Plan on SSE Website – 2 Sections – no longer than 3 pages

1st Section – Account of progress made on implementing improvements in areas that were evaluated and improvement plans written in previous years.

- Details of new area chosen for Self Evaluation
- The areas the school has prioritised for improvement

2nd Section – This is the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Outline the improvement that the school wants to achieve - setting specific targets that are SMART [Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, Time bound] and the actions that will be taken to achieve these improvements, who will do this and how parents can help.

A summary of this report should be shared with the School Community.

- Step 5 - Put Improvement Plan into Action at individual/ subject/ whole school levels.
- Step 6 – The plan is monitored and evaluated by the school over the course of it’s implementation (suggested 3 years) until the procedure is embedded. (i.e. Are changes happening? Are they working? How is it impacting on students learning?)