



Newpark
Comprehensive School

Newpark Comprehensive School,

Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Roll Number: 810011

1). School Improvement Plan Results Summary from 2018/2019

2.) School Self-Evaluation Summary Report for the School Community.

Evaluation Period Sept. 2018 – Jan 2019

Report Issue Date: May 2019

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Results of School Improvement Initiatives 2018/2019

The focus of our school self- evaluation in 2018/2019 was on improving teaching and learning through student reflection. We set targets for achievement and outlined clearly the actions necessary for those targets to be achieved and identified those responsible for the actions. We carried out surveys of students after these initiatives to ascertain what, if any, improvement was evident. The results are below.

Student Survey Results

Our first target was for 60% of students to report 'I have time to reflect on my progress during the learning and at the end of learning something new' from 24% to 60%. We have increased from 24% to 39% overall, with J.C. students at 46%. We have fallen short of our target but have made significant improvements in the area. Perhaps the target was unrealistic. 74% of students report they have had opportunities in class to assess their own work but possibly do not understand that this is a form of reflection.

Statement	Senior Cycle	Junior Cycle	Total
I have had opportunities in class to assess my own work.	67%	81%	74%
I have had opportunities to engage in peer assessment.	61%	66%	64%
I have time in class to think about where I'm doing well and how I need to improve.	51%	36%	44%
I keep a learning journal or a reflection journal in at least one subject.	33%	40%	37%
The teacher sometimes uses the traffic lights to check if we understand something.	N/A	55%	
I have time to reflect on my progress during the learning and at the end of learning something new.	32%	46%	39%
I am able to set meaningful goals for myself and know what I need to do to reach them.	59%	37%	48%

Additional External Evaluation through Inspection of English

The English classes observed ranged from good to exemplary with particular note made that our students understood the concept of Success Criteria and how to use S.C. to improve their work. This was an area we prioritised for S.S.E. and School Improvement in recent years and it is pleasing to have it recognised and validated through external evaluation.

The inspector also noted the active learning through group work and that students were highly engaged and lessons were evidently enjoyable.

Summary School Self-Evaluation Report 2018/2019

1. Introduction

Newpark is a caring, friendly, co-educational school that provides an atmosphere for constructive and creative learning for students of all backgrounds, ethnicities and abilities. It is a supportive and compassionate community in which students are provided with every opportunity to achieve their chosen goals. Newpark is proud to equip its students with a balanced outlook on life, work and leisure.

Care is taken to develop an effective working relationship between teachers and students where respect and tolerance are central. This student centred environment is supported by an extensive student support system of Form Teachers, Year Leaders, Guidance Counsellors, Nurses and Chaplains.

Newpark fosters close links with parents and guardians and has a vibrant Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This group is active in fundraising and providing a forum to support parents. Former students and staff participate in the life of the school through their encouragement and support for various events.

A number of courses which reflect Newpark's comprehensive educational ethos are offered: the Junior Certificate Programme; the Transition Year Programme; the Leaving Certificate Programme; the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme and the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. A partnership established between the French government and Newpark in 1995 has led to the provision of a European Section for students with a French family background or a potential for language acquisition.

There are 78 teachers and 857 students. Our attendance levels are 93% and the vast majority of our students behave very well. For more information on how we intend to improve our students' learning, please see our School Improvement Plan summary which is available on the website.

1.1 The focus of the evaluation.

We undertook a whole school randomly selected student survey to ascertain what students found most helpful to their learning. The questions concerned student self-evaluation, reflection time, opportunities for peer assessment and the setting of personal goals. We chose these areas because we are committed to improving the student experience of teaching and learning as an ongoing concern.

This report summarises the strengths we identified and the areas that have been prioritised for improvement.

2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings and external evaluation findings

We re-surveyed students on their experiences of reflection to find out about a variety of aspects of their teaching and learning experiences as outlined in 1.1 above.

We found that our school has strengths in the following areas:

- Significantly more students reported they had time to reflect on their progress during the learning and at the end of learning something new after the implementation period of the initiative.
- 74% of students reported they had opportunities to assess their own work.
- 48% reported they could set meaningful goals for themselves.

3. External Evaluation

The Inspection of the English Dept. January 2019

- Teaching ranged from good to very good with some exemplary practice noted.
- The inspector reported that students were highly engaged and lessons were enjoyable.

We know we have these strengths because the data within the school has been analysed from student surveys and because an external inspector evaluated the English Dept.

4. Areas for development

We wish to bring about a situation where 60% of students will report they reflect on their behaviour and attitude to learning, and are able to set meaningful personal goals as a result of their reflection.

There will be a whole staff introductory session in August and a full staff session in Nov. '19 to put actions in place for S.I.P. 2019/20.

T.C.

