

St. Joseph's Castlebar, School Self-Evaluation (SSE) Information Sheet

School Self-Evaluation (SSE)

			
Looking At Our School 2022	School Self-Evaluation: Next Steps - September 2022 – June 2026	SSE Infographic for children and young people	Framework for Junior Cycle 2015

School Self-Evaluation (SSE) is a mandatory collaborative, inclusive, reflective process of internal school review. It was formally introduced to the Irish school system by The Department of Education and Skills in 2012. The principal, deputy principal, and teachers, under the direction of the Board of Management and the patron and in consultation with parents/guardians and students, engage in a reflective enquiry on the work of the school. It is an evidence-based approach that involves gathering information from a range of sources and making judgments and action plans with a view to bringing about improvements in students' learning. SSE is based on a reflective analysis of what is working well in a school and what needs to improve. The key focus of school self-evaluation is to bring about improvements in pupils' and students' learning.

SSE is supported by a quality framework, **Looking at Our School (LAOS) 2022**, which provides a set of criteria or descriptors of quality in schools. LAOS is, in essence, a set of standards against which schools can consider how well they are performing in relation to aspects of teaching and learning and leadership and management. As education is a whole-school community endeavour, SSE should enrich the existing collaborations between staff, school leadership, students/pupils, and parents/guardians. The SSE processes must actively seek and take due account of the views of the pupils/students in the school and their parents/guardians in meaningful ways. Reporting back to pupils/students and their parents/guardians about the outcomes of the SSE process is particularly important. The fundamental SSE questions for a school are:

- How well are we doing?
- How do we know?
- How can we find out more?
- What are our strengths?

The graphic illustrates the SSE 6-step process:

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Through SSE, schools can shape their own improvement agenda by identifying priority areas for development and by planning for improvement in a way that takes account of their own unique school context. Schools are required to devise a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that contains a summary of the areas for improvement identified as part of the SSE process. A brief summary of SSE and the SIP must be provided to the whole school community. The SIP should identify:



- targets for improvement (with a focus on learner outcomes),
- actions required to achieve the targets (with reference to those who are responsible for taking actions),
- a statement of how the school will check if the targets have been achieved and
- a time frame for achievement of the targets.

Schools can develop and use SSE in a way that ensures that school and system goals for equity, inclusion, teaching, learning and well-being can be achieved.

Our Focus for 2022-2023

Review of our school Mission Statement - this is linked to and builds on our 2021-2022 initiation of a Wellbeing Promotion Review and a follow-on staff in-service on "Learning from each other". With the multitude of changes in our school in recent years, it is pertinent and timely to review our Mission Statement which underpins everything we do.

Quality of Feedback -To share expertise in the area of effective feedback

- To implement effective feedback as part of our teaching and learning which will support our students in moving forward with their learning.

SSE is an ongoing process. In St. Joseph's we look forward to engaging meaningfully and having the active participation of staff, students, and parents/guardian in the whole SSE process.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION – WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Support your child's learning by regularly checking:
 - ✓ Notes from teachers in the journal,
 - ✓ Homework
 - ✓ Access term reports on Vsware
- Complete surveys when requested

Further details on the SSE process are available here: <http://schoolself-evaluation.ie/post-primary/>

[School Self Evaluation in 2022-2023 Webinar](#) (9 minutes)