



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

WHOLE-SCHOOL EVALUATION

We recently received notification from the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate that our school will be visited by a team of inspectors during the week of November 4th - 8th for a whole-school evaluation. This external evaluation will complement our own ongoing process of looking at teaching and learning through School Self-Evaluation with a focus on management, leadership and learning. The WSE-MLL is guided by the following five key questions of quality:

- How good are the learning achievements of pupils?
- How good is the teaching?
- How is the well-being of pupils supported?
- How effective are leadership and management?
- How effective is school self-evaluation and how well is it being used to improve learning, teaching, leadership and management?

The Inspectors will visit 10 mainstream classes from Junior Infants to 6th, 3 special classes, 5 support teaching settings, observe teaching, interact with pupils and examine aspects of pupils' work. 50% of parents in mainstream classes from Junior Infants to 6th will be surveyed by questionnaire as will all parents of children in Coiscéim. All teachers will be surveyed by online questionnaire. The inspectors will also have meetings with the Principal and in-school management team, representatives of the Board of Management and of the PTA. **If your child's class was selected by the Inspectorate you will receive an important letter and questionnaire in your child's bag today. These questionnaires are confidential to the Inspectorate. Your views on your child's education are an important part of evaluating the work in our school and it would be a great help if you could complete and return the questionnaire this week in the envelope provided. All completed questionnaires will be collected by the Inspectors.**

TRAFFIC & SAFETY:

Please be reminded of the following important points:

- We have both parents and children with disabilities who cannot arrive safely without access to the disabled parking bay so **please do not park in it.**
- The area outside the Coiscéim entrance is for set down only and priority must **always** be given to the buses that are dropping off children with special needs.
- Do not make 3 point turns at the school gates – this is extremely dangerous with such a large volume of children entering, many of whom are very small and not always visible.

We hope that you all appreciate that the safety of our children is paramount and that we can all work together to make the area as safe as possible during drop off and collection times.

Anti-Bullying:

In October every year our school has Anti-Bullying Week where we all learn about what bullying is and how it can be avoided or stopped. Our students from 2nd to 6th then fill in anti-bullying surveys where they can report any concerns they have. Students or parents can also report any potential bullying concerns at any time, which the school will investigate promptly according to our policy. Des is our Anti-Bullying Coordinator. He responds to reports and surveys to make sure all children feel happy and safe in school. Our Anti-Bullying policy is on our website on the Anti-Bullying page. Students and parents can now also report their concerns using the link online on our website. Each term, the school will publish on our website Anti-Bullying statistics on the school's response to reports and surveys. You can see this term's statistics on our website now.

RSE Policy

All schools are required to have an RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) policy. Our policy has been recently reviewed by our PTA and the updated policy is available on the school's website.

Positive Behaviour Policy / Code of Behaviour

All parents sign up to our Positive Behaviour Policy when they enrol their children in our school. This aims to promote a calm, safe and happy teaching and learning environment for everyone. Our policy can be viewed on our school website.

AGREED STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OCTOBER 2019

New Staff - The Board extends a warm welcome to new staff who have joined us this year, teachers Tasha and Kate and SNAs Niamh and Dragan. The Board wishes staff and pupils every success for the 2019-2020 school year and looks forward to supporting your teaching and learning.

Clever Clogs - The Board welcomes the full service now on offer by Clever Clogs who provide pre-school and after-school care for children in our school community. We wish our friends in Clever Clogs continued success and we also welcome back all the other users of our school buildings who provide a broad range of valuable after-school activities for our pupils.

Student Council - The Board supports children taking leadership roles in our school and congratulates pupils elected by their peers to the Student Council for 2019-20. We look forward to working with you and welcome your help to make our school an excellent place to learn.

Child Safeguarding - The Board has completed our annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement which is available on our school website, at reception and in all classrooms. This statement provides an overview of the measures in place in our school to ensure that our pupils are protected from harm. We thank you for your cooperation with these measures to ensure children's safety. We advise that anyone with concerns about child safety in our school should contact Principal Dermot who is the designated liaison person or Deputy Principal Pauline who is the deputy DLP.

Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures - The Board has also conducted an annual review of our Anti-Bullying policy and procedures. We aim to ensure that all children feel safe and happy in our school. Led by Anti-Bullying Coordinator Des, teachers use anti-bullying surveys and lessons to help prevent bullying and children are encouraged to report any concerns about bullying to a staff member. Please see our Anti-Bullying Policy on our school website, where you can also complete an anti-bullying survey or make a report.