

Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning specifically with regards to our school applying for Recognition as a Second level school in the Gaeltacht 2018-2021. This is what we discovered:

School Context: St Brendan's College is a mixed vocational school teaching through the medium of English presently. The school is located in the North West of Mayo in the Gaeltacht Of Erris. It is very evident in the area that the amount of daily speakers of the language is declining rapidly. The school is under the directorship of Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB. The school provides a high standard of second level education for its students. It is a DEIS school with an open entrance policy where students with various needs and abilities are accepted and welcomed

Table 1- Language profile of students and their parents

Language spoken	2017/2018
Mostly Irish	16.7%
Mostly English	61.1%
English Only	22.2%

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better:

Table 2 Projected Improvements in Literacy and Numeracy in Students

School Year	Reading Age	Spelling Age	Maths Age
2016/17	11 Yrs 5 Mths	12 Yrs	11 Yrs
2017/18	11 Yrs 8 Mths	12 Yrs 2 Mths	12 Yrs 6 Mths
2018/19	11 Yrs 11 Mths	12 Yrs 6 Mths	13 Yrs
2019/20	12 Yrs 1 Mth	13 Yrs	13 Yrs 5 Mths
2020/21	12 Yrs 2 Mths	13 Yrs 2 Mths	13 Yrs 9 Mths

It is the aim of the school's management and staff that the literacy and numeracy standard of our students would improve at the same level in both English and Irish. In 2017, 51 students sat the leaving Certificate examination in Irish and 28 of them sat the higher-level paper while 2 students had exemptions. 44 students sat the Junior Certificate examination at higher level while 14 took the ordinary level exam.

Table 3-Analysis of Junior Cert Maths results and a projection of future Maths results

Grade	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
A	0%	1%	5%	8%	12%	15%
B	19%	24%	25%	28%	30%	31%

C	44%	46%	55%	57%	55%	48%
D	33%	29%	15%	7%	3%	6%
E	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
F	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 5-Projection of School Population

Academic Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Student Population	378	400	410	420	422

The school has accommodated 70% of the student population in the catchment area in the past 4 years and the student numbers are increasing annually.

This is what we are now going to work on:

Chairperson of St Brendan's College Board Of Management; Theresa McGuire is a fluent Irish speaker as is our parent's rep Michael Hurst. Theresa Deane who is a member of our Parent's Council is also fluent in Irish. The HCSL officer and the school secretary both have diplomas in Irish. The Board of Management of Brendan's College has informed Mayo Sligo and Leitrim ETB that precedence be given to applicants with Irish in the recruitment of staff for St Brendan's College. The school has a strong tradition regarding Irish, where students take part in Gael-linn Debates on an annual basis and have reached regional finals on many occasion. Events such as Seachtain na Gaeilge and Gaeilge 24, traditional music sessions, table quizzes, and treasure hunts are also organised on an annual basis. The school has built strong links with our local summer College Coláiste UISCE and scholarships are provided for students each Easter and Summer. The aim of St Brendan's College is that we would further enhance the teaching and learning of Irish and that the results of this best practice would be apparent in the future.

General Targets

1. To commence the introduction of an Irish stream in 2018 where students will be given the option to study their subjects through the medium of Irish for their Junior Certificate (Criteria 1, 2,3A) with us looking towards total emersion in the future. To provide for specifications T1 for the Junior Certificate (Criteria 5). We will be enhancing the teaching and learning of Irish as well as the various subjects of our students. To provide a high standard of education for our learners as well as our native Irish speakers and to fulfil each of their needs in the school curriculum (Criteria 1,2,3a,5)

Table 9- projection of school's supply of subjects through Irish

Academic Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
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Subjects taught through Irish	Maths, Irish L1, Wellbeing	Maths, Irish, Wellbeing, English, History, Geography	Maths, Irish, wellbeing, English, History, Geography, woodwork, Technical Graphics.
Amount of Students	7	10	12
Cumulative	7	17	29

It is the school's intentions that the uptake on studying through Irish would grow by 3% each year as a direct result of encouragement and enticement through the various activities through Irish. This practice would further enhance and develop the teaching and learning of our students through Irish.

2. Broaden the Irish atmosphere in the school and to further develop and nurture the Native Irish speakers whom the school has the fortune of educating. (Criteria 7, 8, 9). That the amount of Native Irish speakers would increase from 12 in 2018 to 60 in 2023.
3. To use the school's self- evaluation process to review and evaluate the provision of Irish in the school. Link with the local Community's language planning process to share and clarify information on the language requirements of the local community and the school population.

Here is some information about how we are carrying out our work and about what the Department of Education and Skills requires us to do.

School time and holidays

The Department requires all post-primary schools to have **167 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**.

This year we had 167 school days, from 25th August 2017 to 1st June 2018. Our school week is 28 hours.

The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**.

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time. YES

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**.

This year we had 6 parent/teacher meetings and 6 staff meetings, all in line with the Department's regulations.

Looking after the children in our school

The Department requires schools to follow the *Child Protection Procedures* it has set down.

Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this. YES

All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them. YES

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Principal Mr Michael Walshe

and our Deputy DLP is Deputy Principal Mr Howard Treacy

Enrolment and attendance

The Department requires schools to have and publish an admissions policy, to record and report attendance accurately, and to encourage high attendance and participation.

We have an admissions policy and it is published. YES

We reviewed (and updated) our admissions policy on: 02/02/16

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required. YES

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: Regular monitoring of attendance, Awards for best attendance and improved attendance, HSCI and Principal work with families needing support.

This is how you can help: Encourage regular attendance and punctuality.

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour, and asks us to consult parents and students about it. We do this. YES

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour. YES

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school. YES