

Overview of SSE targets in Gortnor Abbey, September 2020

Under Circular 0040/2020 the Department of Education and Skills is extending the second cycle of SSE until June 2021. Consequently, the third cycle of SSE, which had been due to commence in September 2020, will now commence in September 2021.

In the school year 2020/21, schools will have the flexibility to:

- Use the SSE process to help them to address the challenges that will arise from the re-opening of schools in line with public health advice.
- Complete work on the aspects of teaching and learning that they had selected as the focus for self-evaluation in the period 2016-2020.

In light of this our key targets remain the same **1. Formative Feedback** and **2. Digital Literacy**.

Action taken so far:

While our initial targets remain, we have identified some barriers to achieving these targets via a staff questionnaire in December 2019 and also through our Distance Learning student, teacher and parent surveys (Data available from P,DP and SSE Co-Ord). Both targets are now intrinsically linked. We have learned some valuable lessons from lockdown which has resulted in some positive initiatives:

- The school has invested in individual teacher devices, in the form of iPads and stylus pens, to support bringing technology to the classroom and to assist in providing online feedback.
- A new Technological Device Policy has been sanctioned and approved. This replaces mobile phones policy and also updates the AUP.
- All students now have access to a student WiFi code to facilitate use of technology in the classroom.
- Staff led CPD at the start of this school year on the use of Technology in the Classroom was facilitated. Teachers gave presentations on Padlet, Add-ons to G suite and the Explain everything App.

Where do we go from here?

We have learned some valuable lessons from lockdown which will inform our future SSE planning.

- Targets are now linked due to Covid19. Through the use of Digital Technology we'll be providing formative feedback in the classroom
- The traditional framework for providing formative feedback has been removed. Both targets are now of mutual benefit.
- Most students have established good practices in accessing online assignments and distance learning has fast-forwarded. Some barriers remain which are evident in data collected.
- Teachers have established good digital strategies and are now setting homework and assignments via Google Classroom.
- Teachers are also ensuring that all first years are familiar with Google Classroom and identifying and issues early on in the school year.

