



## SSE / School Improvement Plan 2023-2024

September 2023 marks the beginning of phase 2 of the third SSE cycle in schools (2023-2026). Last year we concentrated on introducing the principles of Restorative Practice to our school community, together with continuing and reviewing our focus on using Digital Technologies in Teaching, Learning and Assessment and updating our Digital Plan, reviewing our Mobile Phone policy, and reviewing our posts of responsibility in light of the current needs of our school. Areas of focus for 2023-2024 include:

### 1. Embedding Restorative Practice values

This year we are continuing to embed the principles of Restorative Practice on a whole-school level. Our chosen four key principles are **Honesty, Respect, Fairness and Accountability**. Our RP / SSE focus is linked with LAOS Domain 2: Learner Experiences - *Students grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive.*

Whole-staff workshops on RP were facilitated by our core team on 24 August 2023. There was an evaluation carried out on the successes and challenges experienced on our RP journey to date. New staff members were briefed on our RP initiatives. A key focus for this year is how we might incorporate RP practices when dealing with incidences of bullying. All staff are encouraged to use restorative language, and to promote student voice and active listening in our classrooms; through building positive relationships in the classroom, it leads to better teaching and learning and fewer challenges and conflicts. Teachers are encouraged to continue to use RP Circles with all classes, in particular during Caring Aspects (1st/2nd year), SPHE/CSPE (3rd year), Wellbeing (TY), non-exam RE (5th/6th year). Suggested themes will be posted each month on the shared RP Drive.

Restorative Practice 1-hour workshops were also included for our new First year induction day on 25 August 2023. The RP Core team worked alongside the Class Tutors to introduce RP and facilitate ice-breakers to help the new 1st years get to know one another and learn about our core RP values.

### 2. Team teaching - exploring best practice.

An online survey was sent to all teachers in May 2023 in relation to their experiences with Team Teaching over the last academic year. On 23rd August 2023, Ronan Dowling from the PDST facilitated a 2-hour whole-staff CPD session on best practice in relation to Team Teaching. A Shared Drive has been made available for teachers with templates to record their team teaching initiatives each week. An evaluation will be sent to each teacher after their 11-week team-teaching block.

### 3. Digital Technologies in teaching, learning and assessment

New members of staff have been upskilled. We continue to review and monitor existing practices and introduce / update staff on new ICT developments. In house CPD for staff on using Canva to support Teaching and Learning has been provided.

#### **4. Curriculum Development Review**

Review our current 1st year choices/programme which currently offers all students five choice subjects.

Review our Senior Cycle curriculum hours and assess how we can incorporate SPHE into our Senior cycle programme from September 2024. A sub-committee will work with the Curriculum Development Officer and the Senior Management Team in carrying out this review.

#### **5. TL21**

A new committee was formed to work on a Teaching & Learning Initiative.

Universal Design for Learning was chosen as the area of focus for 2023-2025.

UDL aims to improve and optimise teaching and learning for all pupils based on scientific insights into how humans learn.

In essence, UDL focuses on breaking down barriers to learning.

The committee will work with one 1st year class each, under the guiding principles of Engagement, Representation, Action and Expression.

*G.Lillis*

*ICT/SSE Co-ordinator*