



School Self-Evaluation Report 2025

Donabate Community College

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

Board of Management

30/9/25.

Date presented to the Board of Management

Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our last improvement plan (2024/25) and the findings of the school self-evaluation cycle carried out in the 2024/25 academic year.



Our Focus is: To cultivate a school culture that fosters a sense of belonging, inclusion, promotes well-being and empowers student voices.

Outcomes of improvement plan for 2024/25 Academic Year

We were successful in achieving our target set out in this improvement plan. Our target for 2024/25 was **to promote student voice:**

1. Using technology to facilitate students communicating with the school community and the wider community
2. Ensure that all students, including cultural minorities, neurodiverse students, and the LGBTQ community, are included, represented, and empowered to share their perspectives and contribute to our community.

Criteria for Success

1. Using technology to facilitate students communicating with the school community and the wider community:
 - Completion of the creation of a Digital Hub
 - The students produce and transmit one broadcast per term
 - TY PR team document and photograph all DCC matches and events

2. Ensure that all students, including cultural minorities, neurodiverse students, and the LGBTQ community, are included, represented, and empowered to share their perspectives and contribute to our community:
 - Gender equality on the student council
 - The student council to include at least one neurodiverse student
 - Celebration of Stand-Up Awareness Week to be an annual tradition, demonstrating our commitment to inclusion for LGBTQ+
 - School of Sanctuary Club established as an integral part of the school community, actively working to promote inclusion

Wellbeing

Our target of promoting student voice falls under the following aspect(s) of Wellbeing:

- **Respected** – “Do I feel that I am listened to and valued?”

Junior Cycle Indicators of Wellbeing

1. Relationships & Partnerships

“Opportunities are provided for children and young people, staff and parents to have an active voice in decisions relating to school improvement.”

“Staff, children and young people are welcoming and inclusive of those from different cultural backgrounds, those with additional needs and all sexual orientations.”

2. Culture & Environment

“Systems are in place so that the voice of the child/young person, teacher and parent are heard and lead to improvements in school culture and ethos.”

“The school demonstrates commitment to identifying, including and providing targeted supports for children and young people experiencing barriers and challenges to wellbeing and learning.”

3. **Wellbeing Implementation Plan** “Identify and implement actions to enhance the voice of children and young people in schools.”

Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018–2023

Findings

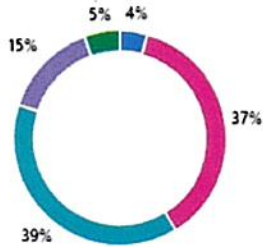
Target	Actions Completed
<p>Use technology to facilitate student communicating with the school community and the wider community.</p>	<p>Development of a Digital Hub</p> <p>A screen has been installed in the school's main assembly area to live stream student broadcasts from the Digital Hub.</p> <p>Production and transmission of regular student broadcasts from the Digital Hub</p> <p>Establishment of a TY PR team and a system set up to coordinate the team to ensure that every match and event is covered</p>
<p>Ensure that all students, including are included, represented, and empowered to share their perspectives and contribute to our community.</p>	<p>Democratic election of one female and one male student per year group to the student council</p> <p>Appointment of a student from the hub to the student council</p> <p>School-wide participation in activities to celebrate Stand Up Awareness Week</p> <p>Stand Up events, posters and flags are to be posted on social media</p> <p>The School of Sanctuary Club is to be open to all students to join.</p> <p>There are regular club meetings.</p> <p>Students in the club work on projects and introduce initiatives that promote inclusion in the school community and celebration of diversity.</p>

Results of Students Survey on Student Voice

16. I have had opportunities to share my opinions or ideas in class or school activities.

[More details](#)

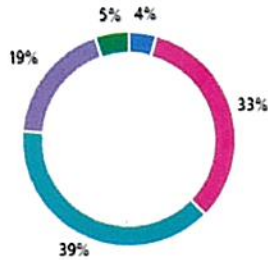
● Strongly agree	16
● Agree	139
● Neutral	146
● Disagree	55
● Strongly disagree	20



17. Teachers and school staff listen to and value student feedback.

[More details](#)

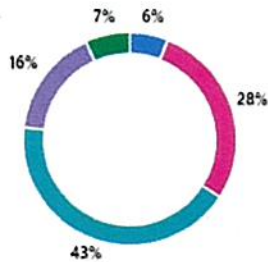
● Strongly agree	16
● Agree	124
● Neutral	147
● Disagree	70
● Strongly disagree	19



18. When students raise issues or concerns, the school takes them seriously.

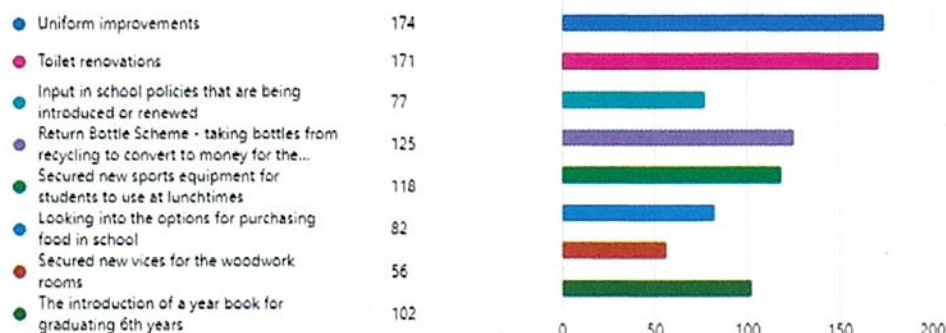
[More details](#)

● Strongly agree	22
● Agree	106
● Neutral	161
● Disagree	62
● Strongly disagree	25



10. Are you aware of the student councils involvement in? (tick all that you are aware of)

[More details](#)



11. Does the student council represent the interests and perspectives of students in Donabate CC?

[More details](#)



Evaluation of Results

The tasks completed and the results of the survey show that we have been successful in achieving the targets set for Sept 2024 to June 2025 – we have made a meaningful improvement in promoting student voice in Donabate Community College.

Looking at our criteria for success that we set out for ourselves, we have achieved our goals:

Target	Criteria for success	Actions Completed
Use technology to facilitate student communicating with the school community and the wider community.	Completion of the creation of a Digital Hub	The Digital Hub was completed.

		<p>A screen has been installed in the school's main assembly area to live stream student broadcasts from the Digital Hub.</p>
	<p>The students produce and transmit one broadcast per term</p>	<p>The TY Journalism broadcasted weekly broadcasts to the TY classes. This was to allow the student to practice and get their bearings with a smaller audience.</p> <p>At the end of the year the TY Journalism class broadcasted to the whole school. These whole-school broadcasts will continue next year.</p>
	<p>TY PR team document and photograph all DCC matches and events</p>	<p>A TY PR team was established and a system set up to coordinate the team to ensure that every match and event is covered, which it was.</p>
<p>Ensure that all students, including are included, represented, and empowered to share their perspectives and contribute to our community.</p>	<p>Gender equality on the student council</p>	<p>One boy and one girl were elected by each year group</p>
	<p>The student council to include at least one neurodiverse student</p>	<p>A student from our hub was elected by the hub to the council</p>

	<p>Celebration of Stand-Up Awareness Week to be an annual tradition, demonstrating our commitment to inclusion for LGBTQ+</p>	<p>There were school-wide activities to celebrate Stand Up Awareness Week</p> <p>Stand Up events, posters and flags were posted on our social media</p>
	<p>School of Sanctuary Club established as an integral part of the school community, actively working to promote inclusion</p>	<p>The School of Sanctuary Club is to be open to all students to join.</p> <p>There are regular club meetings.</p> <p>Students in the club work on projects and introduce initiatives that promote inclusion in the school community and celebration of diversity. An example of this is the multi-cultural day which allowed students to share and appreciate food, music and culture from different countries.</p>

Focus and Target for 2025/2026

Our Focus will continue to be: ***To cultivate a school culture that fosters a sense of belonging, inclusion, promotes well-being and empowers student voices.***

Our target for 2025/26 will be:

Staff Wellbeing

Staff feeling valued, connected, and happy to work in Donabate

- 48% of teachers surveyed felt that staff wellbeing was an area in which meaningful improvement could be made.

1. Please rank these targets, that fit in with our current focus, which is **to cultivate a school culture that fosters a sense of belonging, inclusion, promotes well-being and empowers student voices**. Which areas do you feel that it's possible for us to make a meaningful improvement? [More details](#)



Happy Teachers, Happy Students

McLaughlin (2020) carried out an investigation into staff wellbeing in Post-Primary schools and found that “more than teachers being important to student’s scholastic lives, the evidence suggests that teacher wellbeing has effects on learner’s socio-economic adjustment and academic performance.”

[McLaughlin 2020 Whole wellbeing.pdf](#)