

## DONABATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## School Improvement Plan 2026-2027



Chairperson

Board of Management



Date presented to the Board of Management

## **Our Focus**

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

## **The Target for 2026/27**

To promote a positive school spirit and sense of belonging among students by strengthening relationships and connection across the whole school community

## **Criteria for Success**

1. 10% increase in student participation in extra-curricular or school spirit activities
2. 10% increase in students saying that they are proud to be part of DCC
3. 10% increase in the average connectedness to the school reported by teachers.

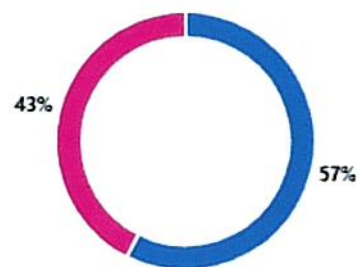


## The Situation Before Actions

1. 57% of students are part of a club or sports team in the school.

2. Are you part of a club or sports team in the school? (Eg. School of Sanctuary/Soccer/Hockey/Dungeons and Dragons/GAA)

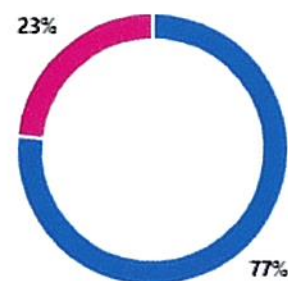
|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| ● Yes | 216 |
| ● No  | 160 |



2. 77% of students are proud to be part of DCC

14. Are you proud to be part of Donabate Community College?

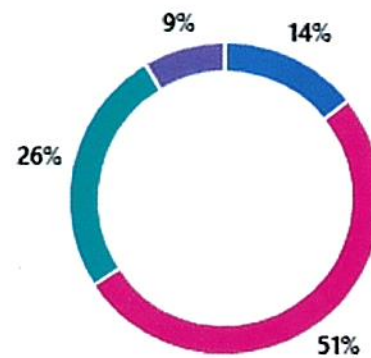
|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| ● Yes | 288 |
| ● No  | 88  |



3. 66% of staff agreed that they felt supported and valued by their colleagues and the school community

2. Do you feel supported and valued by your colleagues and the school community?

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| ● Strongly agree    | 5  |
| ● Agree             | 18 |
| ● Neutral           | 9  |
| ● Disagree          | 3  |
| ● Strongly disagree | 0  |



## Our Improvement Plan

**Donabate Community College 2026/27**

**Timeframe of this improvement plan is from September 2026 to May 2027 - to be reviewed on a continuous basis**

| <b>Target</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>Actions</b>                                                                                                                                   | <b>Persons / groups responsible</b>                    | <b>Criteria for success</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Progress and adjustments</b> | <b>Targets achieved</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| To promote a positive school spirit and sense of belonging among students by strengthening relationships and connection across the whole school community | Extra-Curricular Activities Master sheet is created so all students know what clubs are running and when                                         | Aisling / Caelan coordinates                           | <p>A single, up-to-date master sheet is created listing all extra-curricular activities, including day, time, location, staff member, and target year groups.</p> <p>The master sheet is shared with 100% of students via agreed platforms (e.g. noticeboards, school website, student email, Teams).</p> <p>Attendance or sign-up numbers for clubs increase or remain stable compared to the previous term/year.</p> <p>The sheet is reviewed and updated at least once per term.</p> |                                 |                         |
|                                                                                                                                                           | Extra-curricular fair for 1 <sup>st</sup> year students. Students from all the schools and clubs talk to first years about what they enjoy about | Alice and James and 1 or 2 students from every club or | <p>A wide range of clubs, societies, and teams are represented at the fair.</p> <p>Students from each activity actively engage with 1st years, explaining what they enjoy and what participation involves.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |                         |

|  |                                                                                              |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |
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|  | <p>it and students can sign up at the fair.</p>                                              | <p>sport in the school</p>      | <p>All 1st year students attend the fair and have sufficient time to visit multiple stands.<br/> Clear and accessible sign-up systems are in place (paper or digital) for each activity.<br/> A high number of 1st year students sign up for at least one extra-curricular activity.<br/> 1st year students report feeling better informed and more confident about joining clubs or teams.<br/> Participation in extra-curricular activities among 1st years increases in the weeks following the fair.</p> |  |  |
|  | <p>Multicultural Day – a celebration of the diversity of ethnicities and cultures in DCC</p> | <p>School of Sanctuary Club</p> | <p>A wide range of cultures represented through activities, displays, food, music, dress, or performances.<br/> Students from diverse backgrounds are actively involved in planning or presenting.<br/> High levels of participation across year groups, evidenced by attendance, engagement, or classroom activities.<br/> Positive student and staff feedback indicating increased awareness, respect, and appreciation of cultural diversity.</p>                                                         |  |  |

|  |                                                                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
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|  | Jersey Day – all students and teachers wear a jersey to raise money for GOAL        | Christine Carr and various students | A high percentage of students and staff participate by wearing a jersey on the day. Funds raised are accurately counted and successfully donated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |  |
|  | Stand-Up Week – various activities to celebrate inclusion of LGBTQ                  | SSE Committee and various students  | A range of age-appropriate activities delivered across the week (e.g. assemblies, lessons, displays, pledges). Staff and students visibly engage in Stand Up activities (e.g. wearing badges, participating in discussions). Clear messages of inclusion, respect, and allyship are communicated throughout the school. Student feedback shows increased awareness and confidence in standing up against bullying or discrimination. |  |  |
|  | Wear red day – students and staff wear red to demonstrate their rejection or racism | Jenna and School of Sanctuary Club  | A high level of participation, with students and staff wearing red on the day. The purpose of the day – rejecting racism and promoting equality – is clearly communicated in advance. Student and staff feedback indicates increased awareness of anti-racism and inclusion.                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |

|  |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Set up regular social evening events – pubs, comedy gigs, dinner, bingo loco etc.. | Social Committee                                                                                                               | <p>Social evenings are established at frequent points throughout the year</p> <p>Social evenings are well-attended by a cross-section of ages, genders and departments</p>                                                                |  |  |
|  | Spirit Week at Christmas                                                           | <p>SSE Committee,</p> <p>Chris, Alice, Gemma, Johanne, Sinead Kearns, Emma Byrne</p> <p>TY students</p> <p>Student Council</p> | Fun festive collaborative activities for each of the days leading up to Christmas including a Christmas door competition, fundraising Christmas Jumper day, inviting all the local primary schools to visit Santa in our Christmas Grotto |  |  |
|  | Set up a book club                                                                 | Lillian                                                                                                                        | Club set up and attended and all staff have the option of taking part                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |
|  | Set up weekly 5-a-side football                                                    | James                                                                                                                          | Club set up and attended                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |

|  |                                                                                            |                                   |                                                                                          |  |  |
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|  | Re-establish the swimming club                                                             | Gemma and Lisa                    | Club set up and attended                                                                 |  |  |
|  | Random Act of Kindness Days (structured with suggested meaningful acts) or Thank you cards | SSE committee                     | A date or dates are selected and specific acts of kindness are facilitated on those days |  |  |
|  | Random Act of Kindness Week for Students                                                   | SSE committee and Student Council | A date or dates are selected and specific acts of kindness are facilitated on those days |  |  |
|  | Acknowledging Staff Contributions During Broadcasts                                        | Aisling Clery and Sinead Kearns   | Staff contributions are acknowledged in every broadcast                                  |  |  |
|  | Aintree Grand National lottery                                                             | Mark Tully                        | Lottery set up and all staff have the option of taking part                              |  |  |
|  | Treats for Staff every Friday                                                              | Wellbeing committee               | Treats are provided every Friday                                                         |  |  |
|  | A Staff wellbeing club is established                                                      | Lisa                              | Club set up and attended and all staff have the option of taking part                    |  |  |

|  |                                                                                |                                                                   |                                                                                     |  |  |
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|  | Teacher appreciation day is celebrated                                         | SSE committee, Parent Council, Student Council, Senior Management | A date is selected and appreciation is shown to teachers by the school community    |  |  |
|  | SNA appreciation day is celebrated                                             | SSE committee, Students, Teachers, Senior Management              | A date is selected and appreciation is shown to SNAs by the school community        |  |  |
|  | Secretary day is celebrated                                                    | SSE committee, Parent Council, Student Council, Senior Management | A date is selected and appreciation is shown to secretaries by the school community |  |  |
|  | New Staff are assigned Mentors and structured regular meetings are organised   | Caitríona                                                         | Mentors are assigned and regular structured meetings take place                     |  |  |
|  | School branded clothing (hoodies, zip-ups, jackets etc.) are ordered for staff | Alice                                                             | Staff are regularly seen around the campus in DCC branded clothing                  |  |  |

|  |                              |                                 |                                           |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Keelings dinners before PTMs | Johanne                         | Invite sent to all staff before every PTM |  |  |
|  | Mystery Tour abroad          | Mark Murphy, Charlie and Caelan | Tour takes place and is well attended     |  |  |

## Target

To promote a positive school spirit and sense of belonging among students by strengthening relationships and connection across the whole school community

## Monitoring Target

| Monitoring Action                                                                                                            | Who                                                                  | When                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Whole student survey                                                                                                      | SSE team                                                             | Towards end of the year |
| 2. Whole staff survey                                                                                                        | SSE team                                                             | Towards end of the year |
| 3. Participation Data - Track student participation in extra-curricular, clubs, spirit days, and joint staff–student events. | Year heads                                                           | Throughout the year     |
| 4. A record is kept of all the wellbeing activities and how well attended they are                                           | Wellbeing team, Social Committee, SSE team, School of Sanctuary Club | Throughout the year     |