



St Kilian's Community School Whole School Evaluation Report 2019

The **Inspectorate** is the division of the **Department of Education and Skills (DES)** responsible for the evaluation of primary and post-primary schools. Inspectors carry out regular inspections in schools; these can be in individual subjects, in programmes (e.g. LCA or TY) or one-day 'spot-checks'. All inspection reports are published on the DES website.

Every ten years or so, schools have a Whole School Evaluation (WSE). These inspections look at all aspects of school life, with particular emphasis on **teaching and learning, school leadership and management and how the school plans for improvement**. Early in 2019, St Kilian's had its first WSE since early 2009. The Inspectors worked with the school for a period of about six weeks, part of which was an intensive three-day inspections of classes. Teachers as well as 2nd and 5th Year students and their parents/guardians were surveyed, and extensive meetings were held with the Board of Management, the Principal and Deputy Principal, teachers and teacher teams, and student and parent representatives. The school's policies, and

the planning processes and documentation were forensically examined.

The final **WSE Report** was published in May. It is extremely positive and the whole school community can be very proud of what it says. The DES's ratings go from *weak* to **very good** and almost all aspects of school life were rated as **very good**. The report is a tribute to the school's great students, their families, the management, teachers and all who work in or are associated with St Kilian's. It recognises and affirms everyone's loyalty, hard work, commitment and the strong relationships and community values that make the school such a special place. The inspectors confirm that St Kilian's is very much fulfilling its mission of fostering "Learning for Excellence, for Life, for All".

The report can be accessed on the school's website (www.stkilianscs.com) or on the DES website (www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/Whole-School-Evaluation-Reports-List/).

The following is a selection of some of the fantastic things that the DES Inspectors said in their report:

- The Principal and Deputy Principal form a highly effective senior management team.
- The quality of teaching is very good overall.
- Teachers are committed to doing their best for their students.
- Students engaged very well in their learning.
- Students showed high levels of motivation.
- A well-ordered, dynamic and supportive learning environment.

...supporting both the very able students and those with learning difficulties.

- Students' talents and interests are fostered.
- There is a notable focus on challenging and supporting both the very able students and those with learning difficulties.
- Inclusive ethos
- The school values the diversity of students' backgrounds and cultures.
- Very good communication ... effective routines ... respectful interactions
- Students were confident in using digital technology.
- LCA students demonstrated high levels of responsibility, self-knowledge and decision-making.
- Students experienced very good skills development.
- Students eagerly and capably shared their thoughts, decisions, solutions and opinions.
- Students have many opportunities to develop leadership skills.
- Students were known as individuals for their abilities, needs and interests.

Students showed high levels of motivation.

Inclusive ethos

Vibrant classrooms

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Students' talents and interests are fostered.

A well-ordered, dynamic and supportive learning environment.

Students were confident in using digital technology.

Teachers made lessons interesting.

Teachers' interactions with students were highly supportive and affirming.

- Teachers made lessons interesting.
- Teachers' interactions with students were highly supportive and affirming.
- Teachers radiated high expectations and ambitions for students.
- An exemplary subject planning template has been developed for use across the school.
- Excellent examples of reflection and evaluation were noted in some subject plans.
- Vibrant classrooms

An exemplary subject planning template has been developed for use across the school.

Active Parents' Association

Students have many opportunities to develop leadership skills.

Teachers radiated high expectations and ambitions for students.

- Experienced, conscientious and very committed Board of Management
- Leadership and management in the school is highly effective overall.
- The self-evaluation process is used very effectively.
- The quality of communication with parents is very good.
- Active Parents' Association
- Excellent links with partners in the community, industry and third-level education.

The quality of teaching is very good overall.