



St. Oliver Post Primary School

Educating, Empowering, Caring

Teaching and Learning Policy

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1. Rationale:

Learning is at the heart of all we do at St. Oliver Post-Primary. We expect every lesson to be an engaging, challenging and above all enjoyable experience for both the teacher and student. An expectation of progress for all students is embedded in every lesson.

This policy provides the framework for teachers to teach and students to learn in an environment that is committed to excellence.

2. Mission Statement:

St. Oliver Post Primary School is committed to quality education. It seeks to enrich students' lives and empower them for life's many challenges. This is done in a caring atmosphere of good order and discipline and in partnership with parents.

In our daily life we value the principles of justice, mutual respect, equality and tolerance leading to promotion of a positive self-image and the confidence to achieve the highest levels.

3. Aims:

The learning program of St. Oliver Post Primary aims to:

- Raise attainment and achievement;
- Continually drive improvement in the quality of teaching and learning;
- Apply a wide range of key skills which will enable our young adults to grow into resilient, independent and positive learners and citizens;
- Provide quality learning consistently across our school;
- enable children to learn efficiently and make sustained progress;
- Learn from each other, through the adoption of a collaborative, enquiry-based approach to teaching and learning, where good practice is shared; and
- Create a positive learning environment that fosters student's self-esteem, self-image and confidence which encourages student to have a mutual respect for the ideas and attitudes of others.

4. Student Learning:

The student experience of Teaching and Learning encompasses many aspects of academic and intellectual development; social and emotional life; and the growth and refinement of cultural, political, sporting and artistic interests. We aim to ensure that all of our students have an exceptional and distinctive experience at St. Oliver Post-Primary. We want students to be able to:

- Understand lesson outcomes and fully engage with all their lessons;
- Develop literacy and numeracy skills;

- Use both peer and self-assessment to improve their learning;
- Show the ability to generate ideas and concepts;
- Collaborate effectively with others;
- Actively participate in lessons;
- Develop Personal Learning and Thinking skills;
- Take part in a student-centred, teacher guided approach to learning;
- Develop independent learning and transferable skills while taking responsibility for their own learning;
- Become competent learners so they are equipped to undertake lifelong learning and personal development;
- Undertake other learning opportunities such as sports, debating, school musical etc.; and
- Fulfil all requirements, including attendance and assessment for subjects undertaken.

Student Behaviour:

Student behaviour plays a massive role in successful learning. As such, all student must:

- be punctual to lessons with the correct equipment;
- complete home learning fully and promptly;
- take pride in their work and follow the school's guidelines on uniform;
- follow the student Code of Conduct;
- are reflective and take responsibility for improving their own learning;
- ask for help if needed;
- respect the right of others to learn;
- provide feedback about their learning in a positive and constructive manner;
- be respectful of all adults;
- be productive;
- behave in an orderly manner; and
- actively participate in lessons.

5. Teacher's Role:

St. Oliver Post Primary is committed to Creating Professional Dialogue (CPD) opportunities for all staff. Through internally structured CPD, engagement with national subject associations, the instructional leadership program and other national and international programmes, we commit to giving all staff access to opportunities that will secure the very best learning for our students.

Teachers will demonstrate

- Good subject knowledge;
- Well-structured lessons;

- Carefully planned lessons;
- Effective use of lesson outcomes;
- Thoughtful classroom organisation;
- Controlled management of pupils both in and out of the classroom;
- Lessons which have appropriate pace;
- Focus on Literacy (keywords and keyword journal) and Numeracy;
- The ability to use differentiated tasks appropriately to ensure progression of all students;
- A range of Assessment for learning techniques (for example - questioning, dialogue, formative feedback, teaching intentions, success criteria, peer and self-assessment etc.);
- Use the principles of Bloom's Taxonomy to help advance student learning; and
- Collaborate digitally through online platforms such as Microsoft Sharepoint.

6. Parental/Carer's Role:

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. We strive at St. Oliver Post Primary to work in partnership with parents to create a holistic teaching and learning approach.

In order to enhance student learning, Parents/Carers must:

- ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually;
- ensure their child attends school with the correct uniform, equipment and PE kit;
- give due importance to home learning and support their child to develop literacy and numeracy skills;
- inform the school if there are matters outside school that are likely to affect their child's performance or behaviour;
- provide support for discipline within the School;
- be realistic about their child's abilities and promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general; and
- fulfil the requirements set out in school policies.

7. Improving Teaching and Learning:

Teaching and Learning Group:

Will meet regularly throughout the year. Any member of staff can join the teaching and learning group. It is useful that all subjects have representatives. The purpose of this group is to:

- Share good practice;
- Discuss and trial new initiatives;
- Play an active role in SSE;

- Feedback to departments when appropriate; and
- Feedback to Student Council and Senior Management.

Subject meetings:

Teaching and learning should be an item at all subject meetings. Subject Departments should highlight and focus on the SSE and SIP focus for that year.

Staff and Board of Management Meetings:

Teaching and learning will be discussed at all staff and board of management meetings.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Senior Leadership roles related to teaching and learning are:

- monitoring;
- helping and encouraging teaching and learning;
- supporting new initiatives; and
- Provide Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for staff.

The expectations and roles of a **classroom teacher / Coordinator** of department are

- To monitor and encourage teaching and learning with constant reflection.

Feedback should be sought from the **student body** on a regular basis to inform the school in terms of teaching and learning.

9. Teaching and Learning observations/reflections:

Staff members observe good practice and reflect on their own teaching each year. Guidance documents are provided to aid reflection and allow teachers to review previous experiences. Observations/Reflections will make up 1 hour of CP/HRA/LRA time.

10. Evaluation:

In order for teachers / subject Coordinators to monitor teaching and learning effectively they need:

- To check marking, assessments regularly;
- Use a range of AFL techniques
- To analyse students' current grades against what they are capable of achieving (CAT4);
- To talk to students about their learning and progress;
- To collaborate with colleagues and observe good teaching and learning practice (SSE observation);
- To feed-back findings/issues to members of department; and

- To discuss the quality of teaching and learning collectively in their area and plan for improvement.

11. Continuing Professional Development:

In order to build upon current good practice, CPD will be targeted as part of our Croke Park Provision using a combination of in-house training and external agency services e.g. PDST, JCT etc.

There will also be opportunities to develop skills through involvement with department led in-service.

Senior Management will pursue other avenues to enrich teaching and learning through initiatives such the Instructional Leadership Programme.

12. BOM & LMETB Ratification/Resolution Process for This Policy

BOM Ratification

<i>Date Ratified by the Board of Management:</i>	
<i>Proposed By:</i>	
<i>Seconded By:</i>	
<i>Signed:</i>	<i>(Chairperson, BOM)</i>
<i>Signed:</i>	<i>(Secretary to the BOM)</i>
<i>Scheduled Date for Review of the Policy:</i>	

LMETB Ratification/Resolution of the ETB Board

<i>Date of Resolution of ETB Board</i>	
<i>Signed</i>	<i>(Chairperson)</i>