

*Scoil San Treasa,  
The Rise, Mount Merrion  
18647D*

# School Self-Evaluation Report

Evaluation period: *initial review re SPHE - Summer 2015*

Report issue date: September 2015

## **SPHE SSE & SIP September 2015**

### **1. Introduction**

Scoil San Treasa is a mixed National School in the Parish of Mount Merrion under the patronage of the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Catholic ethos of the school is inclusive and all children are equally welcome. The school's mission statement promotes the all-round development of the child, fosters a shared vision of excellence and espouses a partnership approach in its achievement. There is a high level of engagement with curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in the school, and this positivity is reflected in attendance, behaviour, attitudes to learning and overall levels of attainment.

- This is a vertical, co-educational primary school, with two classes at each level.
- There are currently over 450 pupils.
- There are 24 teachers including an administrative principal. Seven SNAs are currently based in the school.

#### **1.1 The focus of the evaluation**

In line with DES requirements at national level (i.e. requirements that apply to all schools) school self-evaluation has been underway in our school in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy for a number of years now. This year, in line with DES guidelines, Scoil San Treasa has chosen an additional subject area on which to focus. During this year's evaluation, teaching and learning in the following curriculum area were evaluated: Social and Personal Health Education. This is a report on the findings of the SPHE evaluation. This report summarises the strengths that were identified and the areas that have been selected for heightened focus, maintenance of high standards, and further development & growth.

### **2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings**

Information was gathered from a variety of sources. These include: teacher observation (including SWOT analysis, consultation via staff meetings, information gleaned from interaction with and observation of pupils, In-School Management (ISM) Meetings and incidental observations, parental input (including questionnaire and occasional feedback), and our previous Whole-School Evaluation (WSE) report. Scoil San Treasa places high emphasis on the all-round development of our pupils. The pupils' social, personal and health education (SPHE) is a curricular area in its own right and is also a key aspect of school life that is emphasised in a cross-curricular way and through the broad activities and interactions that are fundamental to school life. This is reflected in the pupils' all-round development, in the level of satisfaction expressed by parents, teachers, and Inspectorate, in positive feedback from a variety of sources, and also by the level of engagement of children in school life.

### **4. Summary of school self-evaluation findings**

#### **4.1 Our school has **strengths** in the following areas:**

*(List the main strengths of the school with regard to teaching and learning))*

- Positive school climate/atmosphere with attention directed to the all-round development of the pupils
- A mission statement that promotes social, personal and health education
- Regular acknowledgement of achievement, progress and endeavours

- Participation in a wide range of initiatives that support SPHE including, for example, sports programmes, Green Schools, cultural programmes & events
- Code of Behaviour and other core policies that highlight pupils' wellbeing have been developed and are actively promoted
- Supportive school community

*We know these are our strengths because they are reflected in the findings of the various information-gathering mechanisms that we employed, as detailed in point (2) above.*

**4.2 The following areas are prioritised for maintenance of standards, growth and improvement:**

- Enhanced communication between school and home re key aspects of SPHE programme, so that parents will be facilitated in supporting and developing this work further at home
- Greater co-ordination of SPHE programme at whole-school level to ensure continuity across class levels and to maximise the opportunities for SPHE learning in the context of the overall demands of the various curricular areas.
- Updating of constituent elements of the SPHE programme as relevant to the teaching and learning in our school so that the pupils will be afforded the best possible opportunities for learning within our school context. For example, the Stay Safe programme and the Walk Tall programme are under revision at national level, and the ACCORD Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) programme has been extended. Such developments will be considered carefully in the light of Scoil San Treasa whole-school planning around teaching and learning in SPHE.
- General update of teaching and learning resources in the SPHE area to support all of the above.
- Exploration and development of methodologies with specific relevance to SPHE, bearing in mind the Scoil San Treasa context.

*A key focus will be on reviewing and updating our plans in the light of the above and ongoing findings. A collaborative and reflective approach will be embraced in this regard.*