

REVIEW OF SSE 2025/2026

Wellbeing

The Wellbeing programme was delivered ahead of schedule. Our initial aim was to achieve our goals by 2027. Over the last two years we have established a highly successful wellbeing programme. This includes the planning and implementation of six rotating modules for Second Years in line with specifications. This new framework was inspected in 2025 eliciting high praise and it was perceived as a model programme.

Also a Wellbeing Week was established, with a range of activities including key speakers such as Pat Falvey and John Lonergan. This year the keynote speaker was Michael Cox. We continued the practice of speakers reaching out to both students and parents. Our feedback has shown that this Wellbeing Week has become established quite quickly as a salient event on the school calendar.

We also have embedded an internet safety programme and a study skills programme into school life. Feedback from the Parents Council has been extremely positive.

This success of our Wellbeing Programme has exceeded expectations, since 2027 was seen as realistic target in the planning phase.

In 2025 we also began to consider staff wellbeing. Ms. Helen Pierce began offering Yoga classes to staff members before school, and Mr. Gearoid Clifford established a staff running club. It is hoped in 2027 that a hillwalking club can be established in the school.

Literacy

In the feedback from staff literacy was considered a high priority. It was considered that the appropriate response should be consistent and incremental over a number of years.

PPAD (Post-Primary Assessment and Diagnosis):

Ms. Ciara O' Connor oversees this assessment. It is a literacy assessment used to identify students' strengths and areas of difficulty in literacy. It assesses reading, spelling, comprehension and language, helping teachers to identify students who may need additional literacy support and plan appropriate interventions.

The test was given to all First Years in September 2025.

Paired reading:

The focus of the paired reading initiative is to improve literacy for all first-year students. It is open to all first years, not just those with low Sten and poor literacy scores (but these students may be offered additional time). This initiative began in 2024, and has continued every year since.

Spelling Bee:

Miss Michelle O' Connor and Ms. Clare Duggan organised and ran the Spelling Bee in March 2026. This built on earlier initiatives to highlight the importance of spelling.



1st Year Spelling Bee

First Year Book Club:

The range of books available to students in the library has improved since the audit of 2025 and the addition of a range of new titles. First Years were asked to recommend books, and were encouraged to bring in second-hand books that they had read and enjoyed. The feedback suggested that this gave students a greater ownership of the library. In order to provide a more inviting environment 'bean bags' were added.

TY Monthly Newsletter:

This was launched in 2025/26 to encourage budding journalists, photographers and editors of the future. This initiative was launched by Mr. Jamie Culloty, who hopes to build on its success.

Creative Writing:

Our celebrated published author, Ms. June O' Sullivan has offered her expertise by launching this initiative. The planning began in May 2026. It is hoped to set up rotating blocks of approximately 10 weeks with TY students. They will learn about voice, character development, plot development, dialogue, point of view...

The aim is that they will produce a finished piece of writing – short story/ flash fiction/ poem. They will agree as a group on how to present the work. Some options are a digital magazine, a physical magazine, display around the school, video reading or live reading in the library.

We look forward to the exciting potential reaching its fruition.

Parents Council

Ms. Grainne O' Sullivan continues to liaise closely with the Parents' Council. It is hoped in August to include parents in the preparation of our school for the return in September. Parents are invited to take part in a clean-up of the school grounds to present it in its most pristine state.