

Old Bawn Community School Validation Report

Validator Details

Validators' name Sinead Kelly Roche

Date of Validation 15th February 2022

School Details

School Name	Old Bawn Community School
School Address	Old Bawn Tallaght Dublin
Country	Ireland
Contact Details	Ms Ursula McCabe - Principal
Phone Number	+353 14520566

Criteria

- ✓ **SELFIE Report**
- ✓ **Leadership**
- ✓ **Collaboration and Networking**
- ✓ **Infrastructure and Equipment**
- ✓ **Continuing Professional Development**
- ✓ **Teaching and Learning**
- ✓ **Assessment**
- ✓ **Student Digital Competence**

SELFIE Report



SELFIE (Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering the use of Innovative Educational Technologies) is a tool designed to help schools embed digital technologies into teaching, learning and student assessment. To be eligible for the Digital Schools Award programme, you must complete a school using SELFIE and upload your SELFIE report to your account. This can be done during any stage before your submission for the award.

Validator Comments on SELFIE Report

Old Bawn completed their SELFIE (Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering the use of Innovative Educational Technologies) exercise in March 2021. There was a reasonable response rate for school leaders 54% and staff 54% with a slightly lower percentage of students completing it at 22%. The SELFIE tool highlighted many areas for improvement, reinforcing known areas for improvement, e.g.:

- time (57%),
- infrastructure (43%),
- funding (43%)
- Internet connection (37%),

The report highlighted that some of the schools' current initiatives, such as internet safety, support, and resources, positively impact. It also gave strong communication figures that indicate that pupils are comfortable using VLE's (virtual learning environment) to communicate, backed up by surveys and other evidence. 81% of students felt competent in using software without any assistance. The results from this survey also show that students have technology integrated into their learning both for in class work and for homework. The SELFIE tool has identified areas of strength and areas for improvement in Old Bawn. SELFIE can be used on a yearly basis and is highly recommended so schools can track where progress has been made and where action may still be required.

Leadership

The school has a written digital strategy. It is shared, reviewed and updated regularly in consultation with teachers and helps focus on digitally rich teaching, learning and assessment in Face-to-face and blended learning formats. The strategy fosters partnerships and encourages internet security and copyright compliance.

✓ Awarded
✓ Mentor

Validator Comments on Leadership

Old Bawn have completed two digital strategies so far and are into their third strategy now. This school migrated from the google platform to Office 365 and it all started with 12 digital leaders who received training from wriggle and then went forth to spread these skills within their school community. During the validation meeting this process was likened to how bacteria grows and multiplies in a dish! Although that is a very alternative way of describing the process, I found it nonetheless very apt. This school is a certified Microsoft showcase school. Student leadership is also evidence here as the students will present to parents also about their use of technology in school. All the evidence uploaded for this section and discussed in our validation demonstrate determined leadership in developing and implementing the whole- school vision and driving technologies appropriately across the curriculum. Old Bawn continue to put digital learning at the core of their plans with technology not being an afterthought or add- on to teachings but rather, an integral cog in their school's teaching and learning structure.

Collaboration and Networking

Teachers collaborate with other schools and organisations to develop and use curricular and extracurricular activities with their learners and they contribute to and learn from networks to support their CPD.

✓ Awarded

✓ Mentor

Validator Comments on Collaboration and Networking

It is evident from the sources provided that teachers in this school are also keen to collaborate and network with others to learn more and adopt effective ideas and strategies. The school uses the Office 365 platform within the school to facilitate collaboration between staff. They have subject department folders where resources can be added and shared by all members. During the Virtual Validation it was emphasised that the school's primary transition work had a focus on the students' digital skills in that a group of students met with management of the primary school and discussed what skills they would have liked to have been taught prior to entering Old Bawn. I think this is a genius idea and I love how the students play a huge part in this transition too. In addition, I sensed how devoted Ursula was to integrating digital technologies successfully into learning and teaching and she even took time out for a phone call to run through her application prior to our interview because she wanted to make sure the evidence, she had uploaded was doing Old Bawn justice, a lovely quality to see in a school leader.

Infrastructure and Equipment

The infrastructure across the school includes technical and pedagogical support and digital learning spaces. There is an adequate number of devices and sufficient internet and wireless connectivity for a digitally rich experience for teachers to plan and deliver lessons. Students use digital devices for a range of deep learning experiences in-class and online. In some schools there is a BYOD policy.

✓ Awarded

✓ Mentor

Validator Comments on Infrastructure and Equipment

It is brilliant to see staff with access to such up-to-date technology in this school. It also brilliant to know students have access to up-to-date technology also. The school have an impressive list of digital equipment and resources and all staff have been provided with a school device, Surface or HP, and for students they have HP laptops also. Staff can project their screens via chrome casters in each classroom and students can also connect when asked to. The school has managed devices that ensures that the school is in control of the access to material these devices have when they are used in the classroom. This school has ensured that students have access to a range of different technologies by not only having students purchase their own personal device but they also have a computer room which students have access to enhance their learning and digital skills.

Continuing Professional Development

Digitally focused Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities are designed around identified teacher needs as well as regional and national policy-driven imperatives or accredited courses. Often, such CPD is in-house and colleague-led with examples of innovative practice being shared and disseminated. Other CPD is often cluster-based or conducted through online forums. Much CPD is teaching and learning focused and includes blended learning.

✓ Awarded
✓ Mentor

Validator Comments on Continuing Professional Development

Very impressive section of this application with lots of relevant evidence uploaded. Evidence of lots of staff CPD in digital technologies has been provided here. Evidence provided here of both internal and external CPD with all staff engaged in the MIE platform and a clear focus on them all gaining their MIE certifications. The school also has two teachers who are MIE experts and more who have submitted their applications for this qualification. This was just a very strong section of the application and it is very evident that Old Bawn are most definitely engaged in a vast array of digitally focused Continuous Professional Development.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers routinely use digital technologies, including virtual learning environments for planning, for developing resources, for teaching, for collaborating and for administration. They use digital resources to provide students with opportunities to develop creativity, to engage in collaboration, to support independent learning and to participate in cross-curricular activities through a blend of in-class and online learning formats. They use and foster strong security and internet safety practices. Where appropriate students use their own digital devices in their learning.

✓ Awarded
✓ Mentor

Validator Comments on Teaching and Learning

It is clear that both students and staff are using the range of online tools MS Office provides such as OneNote and Teams. Old Bawn provides each Teacher with a device and learners purchase their own devices. The validation meeting heard that a very impressive 100% of staff are engaged with the schools VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and the digital technologies had just become part and parcel of life in Old Bawn. The inclusion of the teaching staff notebook, collaboration space and the SEN departments use of digital technologies further strengthened this section of Old Bawns application.

Assessment

Teachers use digital technologies for formative and summative assessment. They use digital technologies to enhance feedback and to help students document their learning. Teachers use data to inform the effectiveness of their teaching, to individualise learning and feedback. They also use data to support student and teacher-led target-setting.

 **Awarded**
 **Mentor**

Validator Comments on Assessment

Microsoft insights and gradebooks were integrated into assessment in Old Bawn eighteen months ago and have utilised record keeping and target setting in this school. Pupils are familiar with Office 365 and specific departmental software and are confident in using them to complete work and evidence their learning. All departments are using OneNote and Teams. Many departments are using their VLE to create eportfolios of work for learners. Evidence shown here for multiple different ways technology has been integrated into assessment such a 'rubrix', 'forms', 'menti' etc.

Student Digital Competence

✓ Awarded
✓ Mentor

The school ensures that students develop digital skills across a range of subjects and/or school phases and are taught to be safe and responsible online in ways appropriate to their age and maturity. They are taught to create digital content, to use a range of digital technologies in-class and online to support their learning and, where appropriate to use assistive technologies to support special needs. They are provided with opportunities to use a range of digital communication and collaboration formats within and beyond the school and are supported in reflecting on their learning.

Validator Comments on Student Digital Competence

Lots of evidence of all the different platforms students are engaging with. Records of communication such as the use of social media, newsfeeds, Information systems have been provided. The transitional arrangement with feeder schools was further discussed in the virtual validation which was exceptionally impressive. The following statement from Old Bawns application is so key to the importance this school places on digital technologies "Students have excelled in their abilities and are leaders of their own learning as a result of technology" From the evidence uploaded and the validation meeting it is apparent that students are receiving adequate training in cyber resilience and internet safety. While their learning was infused with collaborative and individualised tools, teachers made sure pupils were aware of the dangers of the internet, their online responsibilities, and the need to ensure that others are safe, responsible, and productive online.

In conclusion I was so impressed with this school and how devoted the management team quite obviously are to utilising technology effectively into learning and teaching. I have no problem recommending that this school is not only awarded the digital schools award under all sections but also that they progress to become a mentor school again under all sections.

Overall Recommendations

In conclusion I was so impressed with this school and how devoted the management team quite obviously are to utilising technology effectively into learning and teaching. I have no problem recommending that this school is not only awarded the digital schools award under all sections but also that they progress to become a mentor school again under all sections.

Signatures

Validator Sinead Kelly Roche <i>Sinead Kelly Roche</i> 15/02/2022
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Coordinator Aoife <i>Aoife O'Connell</i> 15/02/2022
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