



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education

# School Self-Evaluation (SSE)

## Newsletter for Primary and Special Schools

October 2023

This SSE newsletter provides advice and resources to support the school community to work on school self-evaluation (SSE) in the year ahead. The hyperlinks below will provide easy access to key SSE resources.

### SSE Next Steps 2022 - 2026

School Self-Evaluation: Next Steps 2022-2026 provides guidance to school communities on how to engage with SSE over the next three years. SSE enables the school community to review aspects of school quality and it supports the school to plan and implement specific school improvement actions. Last year was a review year where each school had an opportunity to take stock of its engagement with SSE to date and to consider its priorities in light of the impact of COVID-19 on pupils.

In planning now for the next three years of SSE, schools should prepare a concise plan to address context-specific priorities related to teaching, learning, equity and inclusion while taking national priorities such as wellbeing and curriculum into account. In preparing the school's SSE plan, the school community will need to use the SSE process to initiate a wellbeing promotion review and development cycle by 2025.

### Supports available

- School Self-Evaluation: Next Steps 2022-2026 is an essential source of guidance for SSE.
- The Webinar on SSE 2022-2026 highlights important messages relating to SSE and provides guidance on how to plan and approach SSE so as to maximise its impact. You may find it useful to watch and discuss the webinar as a staff.
- There is a wide range of resources on the SSE website. These include practical and user-friendly templates to help engage in the various aspects of the SSE process such as gathering and analysing data, making judgements and preparing a report and improvement plan.
- SSE advisory visits may be requested by emailing [sse@education.gov.ie](mailto:sse@education.gov.ie). During an advisory visit, an inspector will meet with you and talk to members of staff about the SSE work undertaken to date and ways to develop the work.
- Oide Leadership provides a range of supports for schools in the area of SSE. These include online introductory sessions for those new to leading the SSE process, face-to-face sessions in education support centres across the country, and in-school SSE support available through application at [www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie).
- The Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice will assist the school's leadership in initiating a review of the school's provision for wellbeing. For example, Section 2 includes indicators for success linked to the four key areas of wellbeing.

### Some important things to note

- SSE will help each school to identify its strengths and bring about improvements for its pupils.
- Sufficient data or evidence is necessary to inform the school's judgements. As a starting point, consider what data the school already has and collect additional data only when it is needed.
- While SSE does not focus unduly on paperwork, there is need to have a short written record of the decisions made in relation to the school's self-evaluation work, including agreed improvement actions. This will help in monitoring progress and will provide a way to communicate the main decisions to the school community.
- SSE is a reflective and collaborative process. It is important that school leaders, teachers, pupils and parents all participate in the process in a meaningful way. This will help to embed SSE as a way of working in the school.