16th April 2021

Digital Learning Plan
Review 2020-2021

MEÁNSCOIL NA MBRÁITHRE CRÍOSTAÍ

Sráid Shéamais, Cill Chainnigh.

C.B.S. SECONDARY SCHOOL

James's Street, Kilkenny.

SCIENTIA AC LABORE
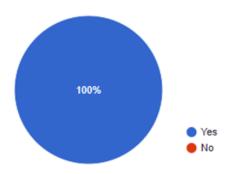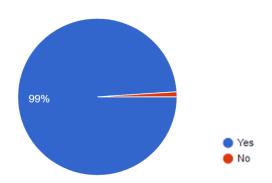
Target 1: Foster a culture of engagement with VSware to increase parental awareness of student development in the CBS Kilkenny.

Do you access CBS Kilkenny VSware?

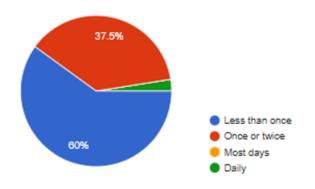2019 parent/guardian survey – 40 respondents
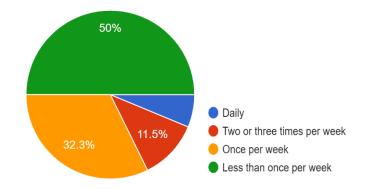2021 parent/guardian survey – 97 respondents

On average, how often do you access CBS Kilkenny VSware?

2019 parent/guardian survey – 40 respondents
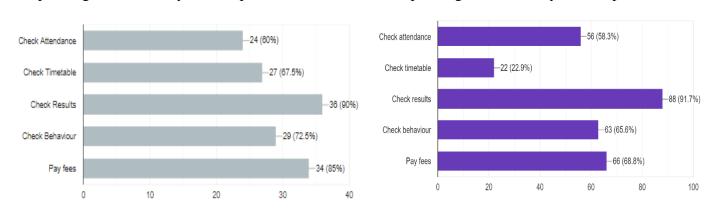2021 parent/guardian survey – 97 respondents

What features of CBS Kilkenny do you use most?
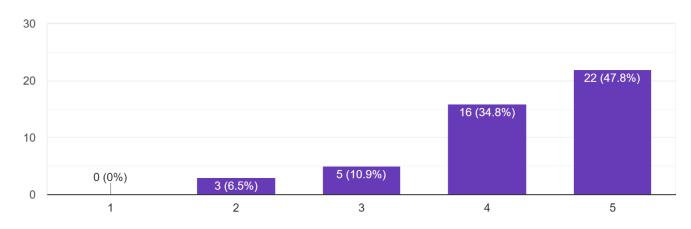
2019 parent/guardian survey – 40 respondents
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Despite Covid-19 restrictions, progress has been made increasing parental engagement with VSware. The number of parents accessing VSware at least once per week has increased by 10% with the reasons for checking VSware remaining largely the same. When face-to-face meetings are allowed resume management and teachers will encourage parents/guardians to login to VSware on a regular basis. This should see further improvements in this area.

Target 2: Develop and enhance the self-directed, independent learning of students through the uploading of resources to online sharing platforms.
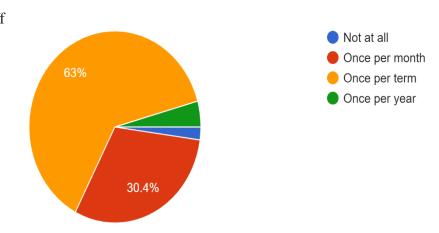
Teachers have invested a significant amount of time upskilling their digital skills and proficiency. *Teachmeets* proved particularly effective in helping staff share knowledge and work collaboratively across departments. As a result, more formal and informal conversations take place amongst teaching staff about how to embed digital technologies into their day-to-practice.
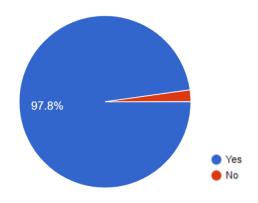

The chart above shows how effective staff found *Teachmeets* during the academic year (1=not at all effective, 5=very effective). 83% of staff said they were either effective or very effective.

Staff felt once a term was the optimal frequency for *Teachmeets* to occur.

Suggestions for future *Teachmeets* included Kami, Microsoft OneNote, and use of Google Forms for assessment.

Number of staff who have increased provision of online notes & resources over the past academic year.

Significant work has been completed by staff this academic year to increase the provision of online notes and resources to students. The incorporation of online tools such as Kami, Mote and Whiteboard.fi have allowed teachers provide rapid feedback on student work, in a variety of mediums, to support and develop student understanding of topics.

Each department has appointed a digital technology leader who is the first point of contact for teachers if they have any queries on digital technologies. They also relay relevant CPD to department members and liaise Public Relations post holder on any relevant activities that needs to be publicised.

Both the junior and senior student focus groups reported the increase in provision of online notes and resources as very beneficial. Juniors cited the reduced need for bringing copies and books in and out of school as being the main advantage from their perspective. Seniors found the access to such material particularly helpful if they missed a class or wanted to revise a topic ahead of a test/exam.

Senior students recommended a more streamlined filing system on Google Classroom which would allow them to access the notes more easily. It would reduce the need to scroll through a long thread of various posts trying to find the relevant resources. Students also noted the increased use of online assessments by teachers, mainly through Google Forms. They did mention that this practice lends itself more to multiple choice questions rather than longform written responses.

Students acknowledged the increased use of digital technologies in the classroom now that face-to-face teaching has resumed. For example, one junior student specifically referenced the continued use of Microsoft OneNote as being particularly helpful for referring back to if stuck on homework or catching up on missed material when absent. Google Classroom continues to be used as a host platform for notes and resources. Some teachers are still asking students to submit work online as well.