



DOMINICAN COLLEGE GRIFFITH AVENUE

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS EST 1883
CHARITY NO. 20145668



Our School Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan

Self-Evaluation Period: 2023-2026

Report Issue Date: May 2025

In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:

- Teachers consistently differentiate content and use varied instructional strategies to meet students' diverse learning needs and preferences.
- Students are supported through scaffolding, formative assessment, and collaborative methods like group work and peer teaching.
- Student choice is promoted in lesson activities and homework, leading to increased motivation, ownership, and confidence.
- Digital tools and AI technologies are widely integrated into lesson planning and delivery to enhance learning and differentiation.
- The LIFT programme fosters leadership and mentoring, enhancing students' understanding of leadership and building stronger peer relationships across year groups.
- A strong culture of collaboration exists among staff through CPD, peer-led training, and a dedicated Teaching & Learning Team.
- Numeracy strategies such as SALT graphing and percentage calculations are routinely embedded across subjects and promoted through visual aids and assessment practices.
- Teachers actively highlight numeracy moments in their subjects, helping students make real-world connections.
- Literacy is supported through structured use of textbooks, a Grammar Style Guide, targeted workshops, and initiatives like DEAR time and book clubs, leading to a significant increase in library engagement.

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better:

We carried out surveys and focus groups with samples of students, teachers and parents.

This is what we are now going to work on for the academic year 2025/2026:

Teaching & Learning

- Provide targeted professional development to support teachers in using ICT and AI tools for differentiation in planning, teaching, and assessment.
- Aim for 75% of teachers to report improved ability to differentiate using AI through hands-on support, training, and resource development.
- Encourage departments to create AI prompt banks and share examples of best practice across subject areas.
- Trial AI-enhanced lesson planning and differentiated resources in a variety of subjects.
- Ensure all teachers have access to clear, practical guidance on differentiation strategies, especially for students with Additional Educational Needs (AEN).

Wellbeing

- Continue to Improve Relationships and Partnerships across the student body.
- Strengthen peer mentoring through expanded implementation of the LIFT Programme between TY and 2nd Year students.
- Involve Student Council LIFT Facilitators in hosting Roundtables to engage more students in leadership discussions.
- Launch a 6th Year-1st Year Buddy System and grow the Student-Teacher Partnership Team to foster community and support.
- Provide structured sessions where TY students introduce LIFT to younger peers, followed by reflective opportunities to help students apply leadership principles in daily life.

This is what you can do to help:

- Ask your child about what is happening in their lessons.
- Talk to your child about how they learn best, helping them reflect on their learning styles and encouraging them to take ownership of their learning.
- Let the teachers know at the parent-teacher meeting if there is a strategy that helps your child learn.
- Encourage responsible use of digital tools at home, supporting your child in using learning platforms (e.g. Quizlet, Google Apps) and promoting safe, educational use of AI tools.
- When we ask for feedback during the year, please take the time to tell us about your child's learning as we will use this information to improve our lessons.
- Celebrate effort, progress, and resilience more than just results to reinforce a growth mindset at home.
- Talk about the LIFT Programme and ask your child what they've learned or how they've participated in roundtables or peer mentoring.
- Support and encourage participation in student-led activities, such as the Buddy System, mentoring programmes, and Student Council initiatives.

In addition:

- Check your child's journal regularly.
- Support all school policies.
- Attend Student Parent Teacher Meetings and other meetings as required.
- Discuss school reports with your child.
- Encourage your child to reflect on feedback from teachers.
- Encourage your child to take greater responsibility for their learning.
- Keep up to date with events on VShare.