



Castlebar School

Pupil Voice-Self Assessment-Independent Learning

RATIFIED BY THE GOVERNING BODY ON:
Summer 2020

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1. Introduction

Castlebar Schools aims to develop all aspects of our pupils' development. In line with our School Improvement Priorities our core focus is on the development of pupils' communication, social and independence skills.

The following policy is integral to developing our pupils' independence across all areas. The curriculum at Castlebar is organised around seven areas of learning and is a very practical, multi-sensory approach to learning. Within this curriculum we aim to maximise all opportunities for pupils to take responsibility and ownership of their learning. Staff are required to create these opportunities and to build in activities and opportunities that promote independent learning.

Castlebar aims:

- To present children with challenges that will equip them to realise their full potential
- To help children realise their own self-worth
- To thereby develop self esteem and independence
(School's Vision Document)

2. Promoting Pupil Voice

In order to support and encourage pupils at all times to develop their voice and communication skills:

Staff will:

- Develop peer group learning
- Reduce their use of language
- Give pupils time/choices
- Use positive language
- Start either verbal or written sentences for pupils
- Give pupils time/choices
- Use verbal and non verbal communication
- Provide Pupil Questionnaires – How safe? Favourite subject? What can be improved?

Pupils will:

- Attend Annual Reviews/Parents Meetings ,when appropriate (even for short amounts of time)
- Complete Annual Review pupil feedback –this should be as pupil based as possible
- As a member of School Council – help at dining table/class room/engage in an annual Learning Walk/support in Assemblies/Christmas bazaar/Take one Picture exhibition
- Present and take part in assemblies-Castlebar's Got Talent
- Take part in Peer group Makaton sessions

3. Promoting Independence

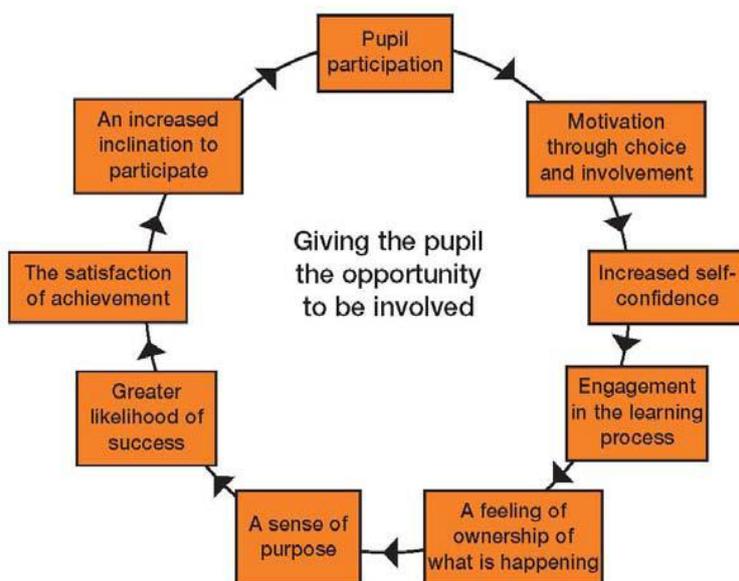
Staff must support and encourage pupils at all times to develop their voice and Independence skills by:

- Reducing levels of adult support
- Effective use of prompts
- Effective deployment of staff
- Encourage pupils to tackle everyday jobs independently e.g. carrying books/bags/resources
- Positioning staff strategically to support -Sitting behind /adjacent to a pupil
- Provide extra challenge for tasks e.g. jigsaws with pieces on floor/under table, don't always hand things to pupils

4. Promoting Self Assessment

All pupils are encouraged to comment on their own work and work of their peers. A variety of mechanisms are used to promote pupil voice.

- Pupils are encouraged to give feedback on completed work i.e. by showing their completed work to their peers and talking about what they have done. They are encouraged to comment on the work of their peers and ask questions depending on the abilities of the pupils
- Systems are in place in older classes where pupils can comment on how they found the task
- Within the curriculum there are opportunities for pupils to carry out surveys and information gathering using the school environment and their peers
- At the beginning of the 'Take 1 Picture' project , pupils are asked to choose which picture the school will use for the project
- In planning for the science fun day pupils are asked to choose a favourite experiment they have done and set it up as part of the activities for the fun day
- A School Council is in place, made up of pupils from the Red, Blue, Orange and Purple clusters. The council have weekly meetings and produce half termly newsletters, compiled of information provided from classes across the school.



5. How will we measure the success of pupil voice?

We shall review our progress by consulting with all pupils and staff and look for evidence that;

- Children feel their ideas are valued and listened to and can explain how they know.
 - Changes have come about which have been initiated by children.
 - Everyone understands the importance of pupil voice.
 - Everyone involved values the importance of Pupil Voice and is actively encouraging and supporting it.
- Developing Pupil Voice –Future Plans