

Coláiste Éamonn Rís, Loch Garman
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2026-2029



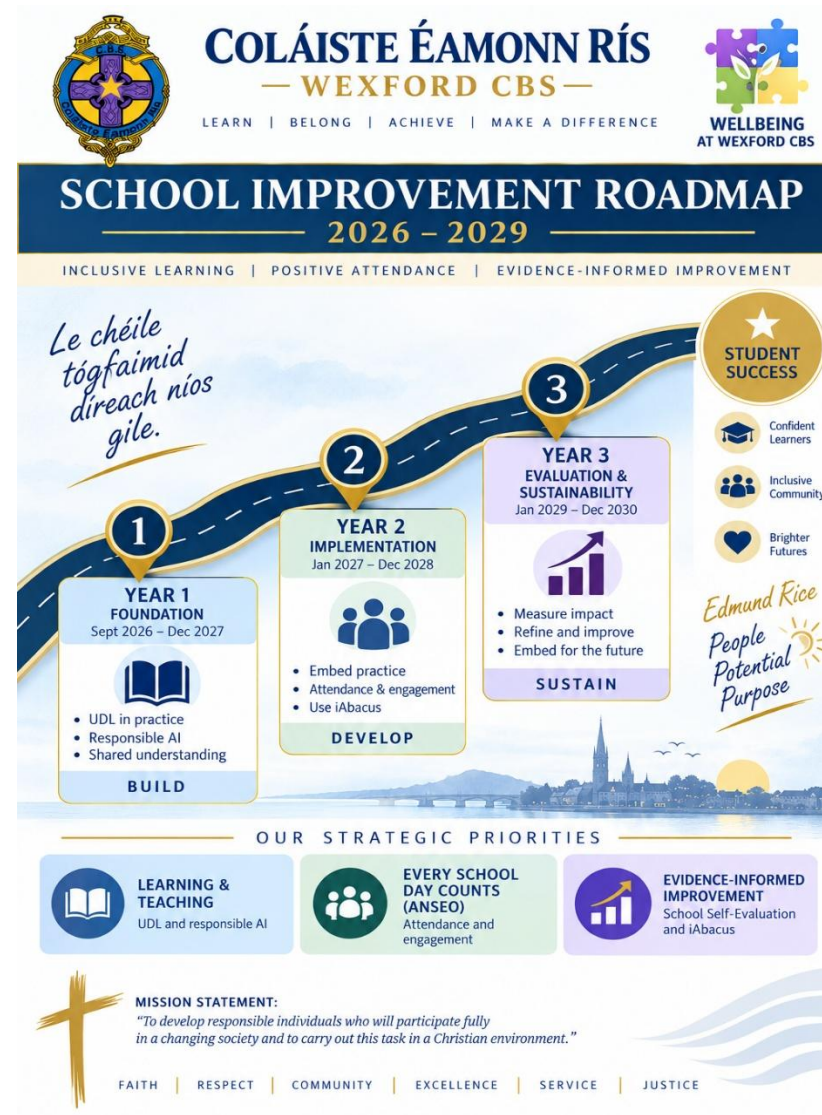
Mission Statement:

“To develop responsible individuals who will participate fully in a changing society and to carry out this task in a Christian environment”

School Vision:

Our School Self-Evaluation journey is about continually improving our school, knowing where we are, building on what works, understanding where we can do better, listening to the views of our school community, and working together to make a difference.

Together, through School Self-Evaluation, we will create a school that listens, learns, acts and evaluates for whole school improvement — ensuring that every student experiences high-quality learning and teaching, feels included, supported and enabled to achieve their potential to participate fully with the wider community.



Strategic Priorities 2026-2029:

Strategic Priority 1

- ✓ Learning and Teaching – Inclusive Learning through Universal Design for Learning(UDL) and responsible AI in education

Strategic Priority 2

- ✓ Every School Day Counts Campaign / A Culture of Presence (Anseo)

Strategic Priority 3

- ✓ Evidence-Informed School Improvement using School Self-Evaluation and [iAbacus](#)

Strategic Integration of School Priorities 2026-2029:

The three strategic priorities identified within this School Improvement Plan 2026-2029 are closely connected:

- **Learning and Teaching** will improve through the practical use of UDL and responsible AI in education, with a strong focus on student needs
- **Attendance and Engagement** will improve through the Every School Day Counts Campaign / A Culture of Presence (Anseo), helping students to attend regularly, feel supported and stay connected
- **School Self-Evaluation** will help us improve by using evidence, student voice and iAbacus to plan, monitor and review our work

Together these priorities create a clear cycle of improvement:

Inclusive Learning and Teaching (UDL + responsible AI) → Attendance and Engagement → Evidence-Informed Improvement (iAbacus)

Through this approach, the school aims to:

- 🌱 strengthen learner outcomes
- 🌱 improve learner experiences
- 🌱 build staff confidence and skills
- 🌱 increase student voice and participation
- 🌱 develop a strong culture of continuous improvement
- 🌱 support the principles of Looking at Our Schools 2022 and School Self-Evaluation process

Strategic Road Map 2026-2029:**Year 1: Foundation, September 2026 – December 2027**

Strategic Aim	Actions / Implementation	To Achieve ...
Learning & Teaching - UDL principles and using responsible AI in education	Develop a shared understanding of UDL and how responsible AI can support inclusive learning.	... a shared understanding and confidence in using UDL principles to improve learner experiences ... a clear school-wise framework for the responsible use of AI that meets the needs of CÉR
	✓ Whole-staff professional learning ✓ Identify core UDL practices & implement a school wide student-centred strategy ✓ Review and update Acceptable Use Policy to reflect changes in responsible use of AI in education ✓ Trial co-teaching approaches ✓ Provide staff training on safe, ethical and effective use of AI ✓ Explore AI tools that support differentiation and accessibility ✓ Use iAbacus to plan, monitor	
Every Day School Day Counts Campaign / A Culture of Presence Programme (Anseo)	Improve attendance and engagement through evidence-informed actions, as part of the Every School Day Counts Campaign / A Culture of Presence Programme (Anseo)	... an innovative and active Anseo scheme where an agreed, evidence-informed whole-school approach to attendance and engagement is accessible to all ... baseline measures and priority areas and barriers for action
	✓ Participate in the Anseo Pilot scheme ✓ Implement targeted attendance actions in collaboration with Anseo ✓ Build on the gathered attendance data to support greater engagement ✓ Identify barriers to attendance to understand better student needs ✓ Use iAbacus to support Action Plan and Evaluation	
Evidence-Informed Improvement (SSE & iAbacus)	Use iAbacus to support the SSE six-step process and develop a student-centred action planning system	... an innovative, effective and forward-thinking platform for whole-school evaluation and improvement ... a student-centred iAbacus called 'Student Success iAbacus' where students have a shared responsibility for their learning outcomes and experiences
	✓ Introduce iAbacus and engage staff using an Individual Practice iAbacus ✓ Create a student-centred iAbacus pilot scheme called 'Student Success iAbacus' with a target group ✓ Action Plan and monitor UDL induction ✓ Action Plan and monitor responsible use of AI in education initiative(s) ✓ Gather stakeholder voice	

Key Message

We are further developing a CÉR approach for action planning, inclusion and student voice for whole-school improvement.

Strategic Road Map 2026-2029:**Year 2: Implementation, January 2028 – December 2028**

Strategic Aim	Actions / Implementation	To Achieve ...
Learning & Teaching - UDL principles and using responsible AI in education to improve learner experiences	Strengthen inclusive Learning and Teaching through consistent use of UDL and AI-supported classroom practice.	... shared planning approaches for learning and teaching ... greater use of AI to support the creation of learning resources
	✓ Gather and review department-level progress on UDL targets and the use of AI to support differentiation ✓ Create and use a UDL lesson observation template through co-teaching ✓ Explore a student AI literacy programme ✓ Gather student feedback on learning experiences ✓ Use iAbacus to plan, monitor and review progress	
Every Day School Day Counts Campaign / A Culture of Presence Programme (Anseo)	Strengthen student engagement and attendance through evidence-informed actions as part of Anseo	... a strong and inclusive attendance action plan based on evidence, with student and family voice at its centre ... a more consistent whole-school approach to early identification, intervention and engagement
	✓ Continue participation in the Anseo Pilot Scheme ✓ Continue targeted attendance actions with support from Anseo ✓ Continue to use attendance data to improve engagement ✓ Work with students to identify and address barriers to attendance ✓ Use iAbacus to plan, monitor and review actions	
Evidence-Informed Improvement (SSE & iAbacus)	Embed iAbacus within the SSE six-step process, develop the student Success iAbacus and build stronger departmental collaboration	... an easily accessible whole-school system for SSE, action planning and review that develops through staff, student and school stakeholders ... a collaborative and student-centred iAbacus tool for a wider range of students across all programmes ... a collaborative department based iAbacus that supports shared responsibility for improvement
	✓ Re-engage staff with their Individual Practice iAbacus and add further content ✓ Review and evaluate the Student Success iAbacus pilot ✓ Share the impact of the Student Success iAbacus pilot with stakeholders ✓ Develop a Department iAbacus as a shared tool for action planning and review ✓ Continue to monitor and support UDL implementation ✓ Continue to monitor and support the responsible use of AI in education ✓ Gather the views of students, staff and other stakeholders	

Key Message

We are moving from awareness to consistent classroom practice where collaboration supports whole-school improvement.

Strategic Road Map 2026-2029:**Year 3: Evaluation & Sustainability, January 2029 – December 2029**

Strategic Aim	Actions / Implementation	To Achieve ...
Learning & Teaching - UDL principles and using responsible AI in education to improve learner experiences	Develop a sustainable culture of inclusive, evidence-informed and technology-supported learning and teaching.	... shared planning approaches for learning and teaching ... continued development of AI-supported learning resources
	✓ Evaluate the impact of UDL and AI-supported approaches on learner experiences ✓ Review learner outcomes ✓ Review the effectiveness of AI-supported practices ✓ Review and update relevant policies ✓ Use iAbacus and the evidence gathered to identify priorities for the next School Improvement Plan	
Every Day School Day Counts Campaign / A Culture of Presence Programme (Anseo)	Review the impact of attendance and engagement actions and use the findings to plan for future improvement.	... greater student participation and positive student experiences across the school ... greater student participation and positive student experiences across the school ... a stronger sense of belonging to the Coláiste Éamonn Rís school community
	✓ Compare attendance and engagement outcomes with the baseline measures ✓ Identify and maintain the attendance approaches that have had the greatest impact ✓ Build effective attendance practices into normal whole-school practice ✓ Use iAbacus and the evidence gathered to inform priorities for the next School Improvement Plan	
Evidence-Informed Improvement (SSE & iAbacus)	Use iAbacus to support the SSE six-step process and develop a strong, student-centred approach to action planning and improvement.	... a CÉR approach to SSE that reflects our school vision, values and culture as an ERST post-primary school ... an established student-centred platform to support Student Success ... a strong collaborative culture that supports highly-effective learning and teaching and continuous improvement
	✓ Re-engage staff using and added bead to their Individual Practice iAbacus and add further content ✓ Review and evaluate the different iAbacuses in use: Staff Individual Practice SSE, Student Success, Departmental Action Planning ✓ Use the evidence gathered to support future SSE cycles ✓ Use iAbacus and the evidence gathered to inform priorities for the next School Improvement Plan	

Key Message

We are moving from consistent classroom practice to embedded cultural and continuous improvement.

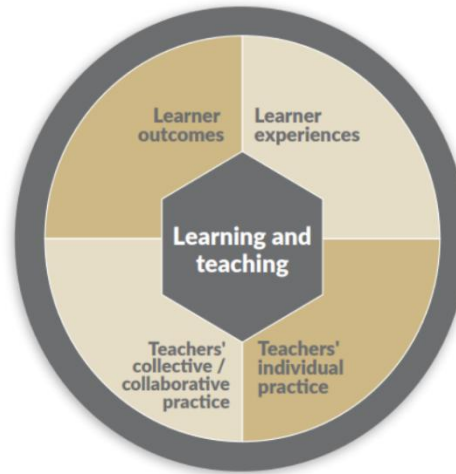
Appendix:

Looking at Our Schools 2022 Summary Table & SSE:

This document provides a framework from which School Self-Evaluation, alongside the six-step SSE process, guides our strategic planning for whole school improvement.



Framework for Whole School Improvement: Looking at our Schools 2022:



LAOS 2022: Learning and Teaching Domains	Term Explanation:
Learner Outcomes:	What learners know, understand, can do and how they approach learning.
Learner Experiences:	The quality, accessibility, challenge, support and meaningfulness of the learning experience.
Teachers' Individual Practice:	How teachers plan, teach, assess, differentiate and respond to individual learning needs.
Teachers' Collective/Collaborative Practice:	How teachers work together to develop inclusive and effective learning opportunities.



LAOS 2022: Leadership and Management Domains	Term Explanation:
Leading Learning and Teaching:	Creating conditions for a positive school culture and learning environment.
Managing the Organisation:	Managing human, physical and financial resources to ensure the school's resources aligned with its priorities and used effectively to support improvement.
Leading School Development:	Communicate the guiding vision for the school and lead to its realisation through professional responsibility and accountability.
Developing Leadership Capacity:	Empower stakeholders to participate, take on and carry out sustainable leadership roles both internally and with the wider community, whilst critiquing own practice to support school improvement.

Abbreviations:

SSE – School Self-Evaluation	API – Assistant Principal I (post holder)	WSS – Whole School Staff
SIP – School Improvement Plan	APII – Assistant Principal II (post holder)	RP – Restorative Practice
WSE – Whole School Evaluation	AUP – Acceptable Usage Policy	AEN – Additional Educational Needs
SLT – Senior Leadership Team	LAOS 2022 – Looking at our Schools 2022	GC – Guidance Counsellor
P – Principal / DP – Deputy Principal	DE – Department of Education	Subj. Dept. - Subject Departments
BOM – Board of Management	PAC – Positive Affirmation Committee	SNA – Special Needs Assistant

Terms:

Universal Design for learning – UDL, in secondary schools is a proactive teaching framework that removes classroom barriers by offering flexible methods for engagement, representation, and expression.	Anseo Programme – Anseo, an actionable attendance tool for schools, it is an evidence-based approach to improving school attendance.	Looking at Our School 2022 : A Quality Framework for Post-Primary Schools is a framework that provides a shared understanding of what effective and highly effective learning, teaching, leadership and management practices look like in the Irish school system.
iAbacus – iAbacus, is an online system used by the Coláiste Éamonn Rís to manage and guide whole school improvement	Oide - Department of Education's national support service for teachers and school leaders in Ireland.	

Researched and written by Ruth Ivers, SSE Team leader in collaboration with the SSE Team, colleagues, students, parents and stakeholders of Coláiste Éamonn Rís, Wexford.