

LORETO COLLEGE FOXROCK

WHOLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK PILOT PROJECT



THE WORK SO FAR...

WHY WE PARTICIPATED?

- To get a greater understanding of the whole school guidance framework
- To access support and resources in implementing the framework
- Make staff aware of their roles within the whole school guidance framework with respect to the continuum of support model

WHAT DID WE SET OUT TO ACHIEVE?

- To make all staff aware of the whole school approach to guidance
- To highlight the continuum of support model in relation to guidance
- To consider the guidance needs at junior cycle and how to meet these needs

WHAT DID WE DECIDE TO DO AND WHY?

- Find out where the gaps in provision lay by carrying out an audit of guidance ('Looking at WSG Checklist 1) with the WSGT and by surveying the students ('Student Questionnaire')
- Formulate a plan for next year to bridge those gaps in whole school guidance provision at junior cycle

HOW WE PROCEEDED

- Carried out a review of the current guidance provision at junior cycle using resources provided by the NCGE
- Found out where the gaps in provision lay
- Surveyed some second and third year students about their particular guidance needs
- We decided to address some of the issues arising from the surveys and student suggestions
- Study skills and career related queries

WHAT WORKED WELL?

- Great number and range of staff interested in the project
- It is beneficial that the emphasis is on whole staff involvement in supporting students
- Process generated worthwhile discussions in the three meetings that were held
- Review revealed that the guidance provision in school is very comprehensive especially at senior cycle, heartening!
- Learned a lot about where guidance happens organically in school
- Found that senior cycle working well but work needed at junior cycle – as expected
- Aided in department planning and target setting

WHAT DID NOT WORK SO WELL

- We found some of the pilot scheme materials a bit cumbersome to navigate and some of the language of the surveys was a bit overcomplicated for junior cycle students.
- No time to deliver feedback to survey groups at the end of May
- We found that beginning this project in the middle of the school year added to a very busy workload, better to start in September
- We had a goal to roll out a whole school focus on study skills but it was a bit early in the year for us so we went back to the drawing board...
- We found that there are too many competing initiatives in schools at the moment that need a more cohesive approach.

HOW WILL THIS LEARNING INFORM OUR PRACTICE INTO THE FUTURE?

- Information from the audit reinforced good practice in many areas and highlighted to us where more attention was required
- Data gathered will be useful in developing a programme for guidance for Junior Cycle going forward
- We are continuing with the team this year to further develop whole school guidance
- Study skills week (re-run) Nov 5th-9th