



Record of Outcomes of the On-Site Visit (COVID-19 Implementation Measures) carried out by the DQSE

Name of School: St Augustine Secondary

Rector: Fr David Cortis O.S.A

Head of School: Mr Stephen Briffa

Review Team: Ms Ruth Farrell (Review Leader), Ms Bernardette Mercieca,
Mr Tony Mizzi

Date of Visit: Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

What is the objective of this record of outcomes?

This record of outcomes follows the on-site visit carried by the DQSE. Its aim is to give the Head of School and relevant authorities focussed and formative feedback on the COVID-19 Implementation Measures as well as any other matter that becomes obviously of note during the visit. The record of outcomes reflects the conclusions made by the visiting team following interviews with the Head of School, SMT members, COVID-19 Liaison Officer, 7 educators and 6 learners, as well as on-site observations conducted on the day of the visit. It does not purport to be a comprehensive report about the school and, on its own, it does not impinge on any decision to be taken on the school's licence (where applicable). This record of outcomes will not be placed in the public domain by the DQSE. Any data that serves as supporting evidence will be retained by the DQSE for a period of two years in accordance to the department's retention policy and in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679.

COVID-19 Implementation Measures:

Good practices:

- The school community follows a protocol, related to COVID-19 implementation measures, that was drafted by the SMT and refined by the educators. It was sent to parents before the start of the academic year. An online meeting with parents was held where the protocol was discussed and explained in detail.
- The onsite observations, interviews (learners/educators/SMT) and documents seen by the review team, make it evident that the school community has managed to reorganize itself to minimize as much as possible the risk of spread of disease and, at the same time, provide learners with an enriching educational experience.
- A huge investment was made by the school. Classes were equipped with sticky mats at the entrance, protective screens and voice projection devices for the educators. Outside areas were covered with soft flooring to ensure that all bubbles have a safe designated area with ample space for recreation during recess. A barcoding system has been installed at the main gate to facilitate the recording of attendance and alert the administration when learners who were sick or on quarantine return to school. An outside area has been embellished and is currently being used by educators during their free periods. This garden also has a WIFI access point. The school provides its own online application, *Student Campus*, that enables effective and regular communication between different stakeholders.
- Rooms that, prior to the breakout of the pandemic, were used by subject teachers are now being used as a class base for specific group of learners to ensure that learners remain in the same bubble throughout the day.
- The timetable has been worked out to ensure that learners' entitlement is minimally affected. Tutorial timetables, that take account for educators' free periods, are compiled for learners who cannot physically attend school on a short- or long-term basis. These tutorials, together with material educators upload on *Student Campus*, offer learners who are away from school, the opportunity to continue their studies from home and discuss with their educators any difficulties they encounter. The Student Council continues to function online. During break, clubs and physical exercises are organized for different bubbles on particular days of the week.
- Cleaning schedules were in order. Hand sanitizing facilities were observed in every classroom and at the school's entrance. A temperature station is available on entry. Educational posters reminding the school community to adhere to COVID 19 mitigating measure were visible throughout the school.
- Both educators and learners think that the school is taking all the necessary measures to safeguard their safety. They also feel that the SMT listens and acts on their concerns. Educators who were sick or on quarantine also expressed how the SMT provided emotional support during difficult periods.

Areas for Improvement/Way Forward

- A lot of effort has been made to compile a timetable that minimally affects learners' entitlement. For options requiring a hands-on approach and the use of a special room, quadruple lessons have been timetabled on one weekday for one bubble (one-year group). The room is cleaned at the end of the day and used by another bubble (another year group) the day after. However, a number of school holidays have fallen on a particular weekday. A few educators voiced their concerns that learners of a particular year have missed out on a considerable number of lessons in the subject they teach. The SMT is aware of the situation and is at present discussing a solution with the educators concerned. The SMT is strongly encouraged to continue searching for a solution to address this learning loss.
- Social distancing between learners in class is being adhered to. Social distancing limits classroom space. In one instance, it was observed that a Learning Support Educator pulled out from class a small number of learners to give them individual attention. Reviewers noted that social distancing was not being adhered to in this situation. Whilst acknowledging that classroom space may be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is highly recommended that the school limits or tries to avoid the use of pullouts.
- The SMT is encouraged to persist with reminding all staff and learners of the importance to strictly adhere to the Protocol owned by the whole school community.

In such a record of outcomes, which is based on compliance issues, the section "areas for improvement" is in itself the way forward for the school.



4th March 2021

Ruth Farrell (Review Leader)

Date

What happens next?

Following the receipt of this record of outcomes, the school is encouraged to maintain and strengthen any identified good practices and is expected to address any areas for development. Another on-site visit may follow, and this will be determined by the Director, Quality Assurance Department.