



ST. DAVID'S HOLY FAITH SECONDARY SCHOOL
Greystones, Co. Wicklow

**ST. DAVID'S HOLY FAITH SECONDARY SCHOOL,
GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW**

Whole School Arts Policy Document

This Whole School Arts Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on

Thursday, 25th April 2024

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SECTION 1 – Overview of Arts in St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School

Introduction

St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, understands participation in arts to include a broad range of practice, where individual students and groups of students have the opportunity to engage in creative expression, cultural participation and artistic response to the world around them. There are many benefits to participating in the arts. These include personal development, wellbeing, motivation, self-esteem, growth and academic performance, and St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School aims to harness these within its programme of arts.

We, in St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, believe that the provision of arts is an integral part of our school identity. The recent school building development has provided exciting new infrastructure which includes a brand-new music room, sports arena (including demountable staging) and two outdoor classrooms. St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, is part of the Creative Schools Programme for 2022-2024. These new developments, along with our ongoing commitment to music, drama, poetry etc. will enhance the school’s commitment to providing arts opportunities for all students.

This document will set out the provision, aspiration and structure of arts in St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, from September 2024 onwards.

Defining Arts in Education in St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones

Arts in education, as set out in the **Arts in Education Charter 2012**, refers to the inclusion of arts learning in mainstream education; students and teachers partnering with arts organisations to incorporate the arts into the curriculum. St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, has developed its arts policy in line with this definition of arts in education and to reflect the plans set out in the Arts in Education Charter 2012. St. David’s Holy Faith Secondary School sees the collaboration with **The Arts Council** and other programmes such as **Creative Schools** and **BLAST** etc. as key to the implementation of its programme.

Arts in education is also underpinned by key skills (such as managing self, staying well, communicating, being creative, working with others, managing information and thinking) as set out in both Junior and Senior Cycle. In addition, with the emphasis on wellbeing in the new Junior Cycle curriculum and the provision of wellbeing hours in the timetable, engagement in arts contributes to the wellbeing indicators e.g. resilience, respect, awareness, responsibility, connection and being active. St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, also aims to bring continuity between arts education in primary and secondary school. Finally, extra-curricular clubs and groups extend the opportunity for students to access and explore the arts.

CERI (Centre for Educational Research and Innovation), an arm of the OECD surveyed the top ten skills required by CEOs and HRMs in companies in 2018 and 2022. Two which link to Arts education are:

1. Creativity, originality and initiative
2. Critical thinking and analysis

(From 'Fostering Students' Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills: What it Means in Schools' Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, OECD, CERI, 2019.)

It is our conviction that engagement in the Arts will enhance the skills base which permeates all aspects of the curriculum.

Principles of Arts in St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School

We, St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, want to ensure that as many students as possible engage with the arts within their time in school. The key principles of arts participation that, as a school, will be embedded for all participants are as follows.

The St David's Holy Faith Secondary School arts' experience aims to:

- Be **inclusive** and aim to provide a diverse programme of engagement.
- Foster a culture of **collaboration** between students and teachers.
- Build a spirit of **recognition and respect** for varying skills, knowledge and backgrounds.
- Develop ongoing opportunities for **enquiry and creativity**.
- Link with school **wellbeing** programmes and improve the overall physical and mental wellbeing of our students.
- Provide **social and personal** development opportunities for students.
- Be **fun and enjoyable** for all students.

Vision of Arts Programme in St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School

St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School has supported the Arts programme through the evidence-based approach of School Self Evaluation with a team entitled 'Wellbeing: Arts', specifically established in response to emerging needs within the school in the aftermath of Covid-19. Additionally, our School Vision and Strategic Plan, 2021 – 2026, places the school's promotion of the Arts to the very fore of who we are as a school. This SSE team randomly selected students from every year group to ascertain from the student body the engagement in extracurricular activities, the range of activities, what further could be done to enhance what is on offer and to increase student participation. It has also given students empowerment to run different activities this year including drama, crotchet, and other areas where students themselves have the expertise and give the lead in the exercise of the activities. This came about as a consequence of reviewing the impact of Covid-19 on students and the necessity of a greater variety of extra-curricular activities to primarily boost wellbeing, enhance confidence, encourage opportunities for socialisation, contribute to building resilience.

The results of quantitative and qualitative engagement with students, parents, teachers and other stakeholders, currently being undertaken, will inform targets to be set for the years 2023-2026 on the basis of information received. These will be communicated in the School Improvement Plan due in May 2024.

In this regard, the Our Arts Programme is broken into four broad strands (a full breakdown is provided in SECTION 2)

- Events/concerts for students to perform to the school community/parents/guardians and to showcase all their talents.
- Clubs and extra-curricular activities aimed at developing creative skills and promoting wide engagement in arts and other non-sporting activities.
- Ongoing support, recognition and celebration of artistic endeavours within the curriculum and outside of school.
- Engagement in national and local arts initiatives/workshops/programmes which may be once off, annual or infrequent.

Aim of Arts Programme in St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School

- 1) To create opportunities for all students to engage in a wide range of arts activities, both within the curriculum and extra-curricular.
- 2) To create a diverse programme that is central to life in St. David's Holy Faith, Secondary School.

- 3) To position arts as a key component of our school identity, which links with our ethos, enhances positive behaviour and promotes our academic success, a key tenet of our school.

The Extra-curricular charge (€100):

There is an extra-curricular charge of €100 per annum, or €50 paid in two payments, for all students in this school. This charge will fund the school's Arts Programme.

SECTION 2 – Breakdown of our Arts Programme

Our arts programme is composed of four broad strands:

Strand 1 - Arts Performances and Events *

The following events will be scheduled on the school's calendar annually:

- A play/performance (from 2023) - A play/performance produced by the Drama Club.
- Christmas Concert - A concert of performances by the members of the school's Music Club for staff and students to celebrate the end of the first term and Christmas. This will take place in school on the last day of term and marks the start of the Christmas holidays.
- An Art exhibition which showcases the wealth of talent in the creative subjects within the school
- School Musical - This will be produced and performed by the Transition Year students at the end of the second term, prior to Easter, annually.
- Spring/summer Concert - A concert for parents, students and the whole school community to showcase the breadth of talent amongst the entire student body. This will take place at the end of April/beginning of May annually (starting in 2023).

Strand 2 - Clubs and extra-curricular activities **

As part of its arts programme, St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School supports and promotes the following clubs and activities:

Music Club
Choir
Ukulele/guitar Club
Book Club
Chess Club
Club Español
Club Français
Club Gaeilge
Library Club
Young Scientist
Drama Club
Book Club
St Vincent de Paul
Crochet Club
Film Club
GSA
Debating
Lego Club
(this is not an exhaustive list)

Strand 3 - Arts support and celebrations

St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School aims to support and celebrate a wide range of arts endeavours, such as BLAST, that take place within the curriculum. We also recognise that many students participate in activities outside of school, such as Irish dancing, baton twirling etc., and believe that these should be equally acknowledged and celebrated. This will involve:

- Displaying arts work, within the curriculum, on school notice boards.
- Promoting arts endeavours, ongoing in school and out of school, through announcements and assemblies.
- Celebrating achievements, big and small, through the school website, our monthly whole-school assemblies, and our annual awards (known as Presentation Day).

Strand 4 - Engagement in national and local arts, initiatives, workshops & programmes

St David's Holy Faith Secondary School engages with any of the artistic initiatives introduced by the Department of Education in recent years to put arts and creativity at the centre of education. From September 2022, with the BLAST (Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers) Artist in Residence Scheme, eight artistic works reflecting aspects of life and human experience were created by Transition Year students which are currently displayed

throughout the school. The school is also part of the Creative Schools Programme (2022-2024) and are designing a mural which will be unveiled in May 2024. Junior Cycle music students took part in Irish Music Rights Organisation workshops with singer/song-writer Luan Parle in March 2024. As part of the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027, we consider such initiatives to be wonderful opportunities for students and teachers to work with and be facilitated by professionals in the field and to enhance creative skills within our school community. As part of its policy on arts, St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, aims to continue with such programmes.

*** A full schedule of performances is given in Appendix 1 on page 11**

**** A full schedule of arts clubs is detailed in Appendix 2 on page 12**

SECTION 3 – Policy, Protocols and Procedures

Staff Guidelines for extra-curricular activities

- Where staff are organising an event during school time, the teacher must check with school management (Deputy Principal) to ensure that the proposed day/time is feasible before booking the event.
- Where an activity is on a set day/time, the organising teacher must communicate this to school management (Deputy Principal) as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.
- Once an activity is confirmed, the organising teacher will display a list of the students attending on the appropriate board in the staff room (email all staff) three days prior to the event, where circumstances allow.
- All students leaving school grounds for arts events must provide the organising teacher with a signed permission slip (this can be done electronically on the club's Google Classroom). This slip must be brought to the event with the teacher as it contains necessary information in case of emergency. This applies, should events/initiatives take place outside of school time and/or at weekends.
- The use of school facilities for events during school time can only be done following approval from the School Principal, School Campus Director and the Arts Coordinator.
- Students must use transport arranged by the school for any out of school events for both going to and returning from the activity.

Students missing class for arts activities/programmes/initiatives

It is possible that some arts events may take place during school hours. The responsibility is on the student to ensure they make arrangements so no class work, homework or project work is missed in any subject while they are at any arts event.

Where a class teacher is concerned by a student's absence or missing homework/project work, due to an arts engagement, the class teacher is expected to speak to the student initially, as this is always the most appropriate method to follow. Parents/guardians will be informed if this continues. The class teacher may wish to communicate their concern with the organising teacher and/or the Arts Coordinator. If this persists, a Year Head report should follow and sanctions, as per our Code of Behaviour, will be enacted.

The student should:

- Inform the teacher prior to the event that they will be missing class.
- Check with their classmates as to what work was done in class while they were absent.
- Catch up on any work missed and ensure any homework assigned is completed.
- Check Google Classroom to see if any work was assigned in their absence.

The Role of the organising teacher:

- Follow the general guidelines for extra-curricular activity (as above)
- Ensure their activity is on the extra-curricular timetable (correct day, time, venue).
- Stick to their allocated slot as changing will have implications for other activities.
- Supervise their activity at all times.
- Ensure the School's Code of Behaviour Policy is adhered to by their students.
- Deal with any behavioural concerns in accordance with our School Code of Behaviour.
- Be a positive role model for students during any game/event.
- Promote their activity and forward any images taken to the Arts Coordinator/PR so they can be used on school social media. Notify the media committee of any organised events in advance so that they can ensure that photos/details/results are placed on the school website via the school post-holder for the school's website/social media.

The role of the student:

When engaging in an arts activity, students are required to:

- Represent our school to the highest of standards.
- Respect all participants. Give them full support when they do well or when things go wrong.
- Wear the correct, appropriate St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School uniform.
- Obey school rules and the school code of behaviour.
- Behave in a responsible manner at all times.
- Respect all facilities and leave them tidy after use.
- Report any incident to the teacher at the time of the incident.

SECTION 4 - Budgeting our Arts Programme (2024-2026)

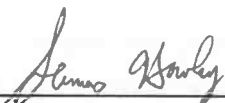
All arts activities will have to take place within the set 'Arts Budget' annually agreed between the Arts Coordinator and the school Principal. This budget will cover new equipment, travel, entry fees and other sundries.

The Arts Coordinator will oversee this budget. All purchases will follow existing school guidelines for purchasing. This includes seeking approval from the Principal and the use of purchase order forms.

The school's extra-curricular charge of €100 annually will fund the school's Arts Programme.

A detailed up-keep of income and expenditure will be maintained by the School's Bursar and the Arts Coordinator.

Signed:

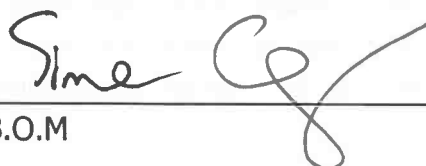


Chairperson of the B.O.M

Date:

25.5.2024

Signed:



Secretary to the B.O.M

Date:

25th April 2025.