SSE UPDATE

A parent guide to our School Self-Evaluation Plan 2023–2026



Listening • Learning • Improving

A message to parents and guardians

Our Lady's Secondary School continually reviews how we support learning, wellbeing and student progress. This update explains the priorities in our 2023–2026 School Self-Evaluation (SSE) Plan in straightforward language. It describes the actions and targets set out in the plan; it is not a claim that every target has already been achieved.

What is School Self-Evaluation?

School Self-Evaluation means looking carefully at what is working well, listening to the school community, choosing improvements and checking whether those improvements make a difference. Our School Improvement Plan sets out the practical steps we intend to take.

We draw on parent and student surveys, student focus groups, staff discussions, Parents' Association meetings, one-to-one student meetings, Compass attendance information and checks of student journals.

Our priorities at a glance

- 2023/24 | Study skills, independent learning, literacy and numeracy
- 2024/25 | Student wellbeing, mentoring, participation and attendance
- 2025/26 | Attendance, learning intentions, tracking progress and study skills

2023/24 | Helping students become independent learners

We focused on practical ways to help students take more responsibility for their learning.

- Encourage students to use more than one study strategy.
- Use feedback and other assessment approaches to help students improve.
- Build subject vocabulary, literacy and numeracy skills.
- Encourage consistent use of the student journal to record homework.

Targets in the plan

80% of students using at least two independent learning strategies; all subject departments using at least two formative assessment strategies per term; 90% of students using key subject vocabulary correctly in assessments; and 85% consistently recording homework in journals.

2024/25 | Supporting wellbeing

The plan placed a strong emphasis on ensuring that students feel supported, included and connected to school life.

- Relaunch the Check & Connect mentoring programme for students needing extra support.
- Organise five Wellbeing Weeks and encourage participation.
- Refresh student wellbeing awards to recognise a wider range of achievements.
- Provide a quiet space for students with additional needs.
- Use Compass attendance information to identify concerns and offer support earlier.

Targets in the plan

Assign a mentor to 100% of identified at-risk students; have at least 70% of students participate in wellbeing activities; increase wellbeing award recipients by 30%; and reduce unexplained absences by 15%.

What parents can do

Talk regularly with your child about how school is going, encourage participation in school activities and contact the Year Head or school if additional support may be helpful.

2025/26 | Four areas for improvement

1. Better attendance

We aim to spot attendance difficulties earlier, work with families and use Compass information to identify students who may need support.

Our targets

Improve whole-school attendance by 2%; reduce the number of students with attendance below 85% by 10%; and contact 90% of parents of students with attendance concerns.

2. Clear learning intentions

Teachers aim to explain what students are learning at the start of lessons, display learning intentions clearly and connect them to what successful work looks like.

Our targets

Learning intentions shared in 90% of lessons; 80% of students able to identify the learning intention.

3. Tracking results and progress

Students are encouraged to record assessment results in their journals, reflect on feedback and set personal learning targets. Tutors, Year Heads and Senior Management will help review progress.

Our targets

85% of students recording assessment results in journals; 80% setting learning targets; and Year Heads or Senior Management reviewing student progress once per term.

4. Effective study skills

The plan includes a whole-school study skills programme, workshops for every year group, practical resources and guidance on studying independently.

Our targets

80% of students reporting that they use at least two study strategies, and a 10% improvement in homework completion rates.

How will we know whether the plan is working?

The school plans to review student and parent surveys, student feedback, journal use, assessment information and Compass attendance data. Staff, the SSE Coordinator and Senior Management will review progress and share updates with the Board of Management and school community.

How families can help

- Encourage regular attendance and punctuality; let the school know about absences.
- Ask your child what they learned in class and what they need to do next.
- Check that homework, assessments and learning targets are recorded.
- Encourage short, regular study sessions using different techniques.
- Respond to school surveys and share constructive feedback.

Your voice matters

Feedback from parents and guardians helps us identify what is working and where we should focus next. We welcome your views through school surveys, Parents' Association engagement and contact with the school.

Important note about this update

This summary is based on the school's 2023–2026 SSE Plan. The figures above are planned targets, not verified outcomes. A separate evaluation of results and progress would be needed to report how fully these targets were achieved.

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