



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

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**Library Development Plan June 2024**

This Library Development Plan Document  
was ratified by the Board of Management on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024



## • Introduction

The library in St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School is a vibrant teaching and learning hub in the centre of the school's new building.

Library development is included in the School Vision, Plan and Strategy, 2021-2026.

This initial development plan involved:

- A. Recruitment of a part-time qualified school librarian
- B. Ensuring the new school library is fully stocked with books and integrated digital literacy outlets
- C. Establishment of a Book Club (for staff and students)
- D. Establishment of a Film Club
- E. Integration of school communications system with library
- F. Leading the school's new literacy policy
- G. New school librarian working with the school community and wider school partners
- H. Liaise with the Arts Coordinator in the planning of activities throughout the year
- I. Liaise with the SSE: Arts team with its emphasis on wellbeing in relation to the initiatives taking place through the library

Most of the initial vision has been established in the first year. This plan seeks to identify where the library programme falls short of the initial vision, where it can improve and how it might evolve over the coming years.

An effective school library should be an inspirational and safe space that values freedom and equity of access for all of the school community. It should promote well-being and enable and foster creativity in all aspects of school life.

Effective library services enrich a school's teaching and learning, support literacy development and help create a culture of self-directed learning. Above all an effective school library should foster a love of reading amongst its students.

## • Leadership and Expertise

The library is staffed by a professional librarian who works 3 days per week. The librarian works in professional partnership with teachers, SNAs and school management to provide effective and successful leadership in the library. The librarian also endeavours every year to form a student library council to provide an active consultative student voice.

The librarian also works in partnership with Children's Books Ireland (CBI) and Poetry Ireland amongst other organisations to establish creative arts links at a national level.

Staff expertise is crucial to the success of a school library and *Continuous Professional Development* for the librarian is essential for this expertise to remain relevant and up to date.

Development of Expertise:

1. The librarian commits to attending the annual CBI Conference to remain informed about the most recent developments in Children's and Young Adult Literature.
2. The librarian would also like to commit to other education-based CPD where relevant and appropriate.
3. The librarian would welcome any opportunity to attend CPD in relation to ASD in order to better support the students with autism who frequent the school library.
4. The librarian would welcome any opportunity to attend CPD in relation to well-being and mindfulness for teenagers to accentuate the existing mindfulness programmes



## • **Services**

The current services provided by the school library include:

- Responding to all requests for collection development from the school community.
- Providing an extra-curricular Creative Arts Programme in Creative Writing, Illustration, Film and Crafts.
- Booking classes, participating in and providing materials for library classes.
- Liaising with the local public library service for requested titles.
- Liaising with the local primary schools to provide literacy and other programmes.
- Providing materials to facilitate the staff book club.

Development of services:

1. Current services should be maintained.
2. Some of the extra-curricular activities may be incorporated into short courses for TY students and students exempt from Irish, during class times.
3. Information literacy classes will be offered to all 1st year students.
4. As well as producing short films, the Film Club will have monthly screenings of school-appropriate films.

## • **Environment**

The library environment is relatively new with some new attractive rainbow-coloured chairs, large wooden desks and shelving. It also has 15 dedicated library Chromebooks and a large screen for integrated digital teaching and learning. There is a sofa with some soft furnishings and two lighter moveable white tables. Two substantial storerooms provide space for departmental sharing of resources, an *Archive*, one charging box of iPads and various boxes of colours and craft materials.

Development of the library environment:

1. In consultation with the library council, this year will see the provision of more decorations and signage in the main body of the library. Perhaps some of our film projects can be projected onto blank walls.
2. The library council also requested that some bean bags and some more comfortable seating be sourced.

## • **Collection Development**

The focus so far has been on cataloguing the existing collection of books and ordering new stock where collections are lacking. It has evolved by responding to requests from staff and students and from information gleaned at conferences and liaisons with national agencies.

Development of Collection Development:

1. Staff involvement in collection development will be encouraged by emails to all staff.
2. Student involvement in collection development will be encouraged by library induction classes.
3. Regular emails will be sent to all staff advertising newly acquired resources.
4. The librarian may request attendance at Department meetings where appropriate.
5. In an effort to become more involved in implementing the school's literacy policy, regular meetings will be scheduled with the SEN and AN Departments to build a collection suitable for those with additional needs.
6. A *Suggestion Box* will be made available to the school community.

## • **Community Outreach**

This year has seen a symbiotic partnership develop with our nearest feeder school (St. Brigid's) with the establishment of a paired reading programme that is both a literacy and a social intervention. Every 6th class student was afforded the opportunity to read with and converse with a mentor from our TY population. This intervention was designed to both improve literacy levels and to ease the transition from Primary to Secondary School for the students.

Our TY students also volunteered in the garden in St. Brigid's and helped with weeding and planting whilst getting informative lectures on biodiversity from a Tidy Towns member.

Development of Community Outreach:

1. We would like to offer the paired reading programme to our three main feeder schools' 6th year classes (logistics and weather permitting) and expand the programme to include a paired chess/board games session and a tour of the school by the TY mentors.
2. We would also like to invite the Junior and Senior Infants from St. Brigid's over for story time with selected TY students.
3. The volunteer programme could be expanded and more connections with Tidy Towns could be cultivated.

## . Access

Equitable and regular access is offered to all our students outside of class time - at break-time, lunch-time and after school.

All teachers are invited to book in classes where appropriate. Creative clubs are offered outside of class time to interested students.

Priority is given to 5th Years for research sessions and to TY students for creative projects. Access is given to exam students all throughout the year and through the month of June.

Development of Access:

1. A weekly timetabled half-hour will be encouraged for all 1st Year Students to engage with library services.
2. To increase the profile and visibility of the library in the school community, it would be beneficial to offer more access to parents in the coming year through volunteer opportunities, a parent's book club and/or invitations to special events in the library.

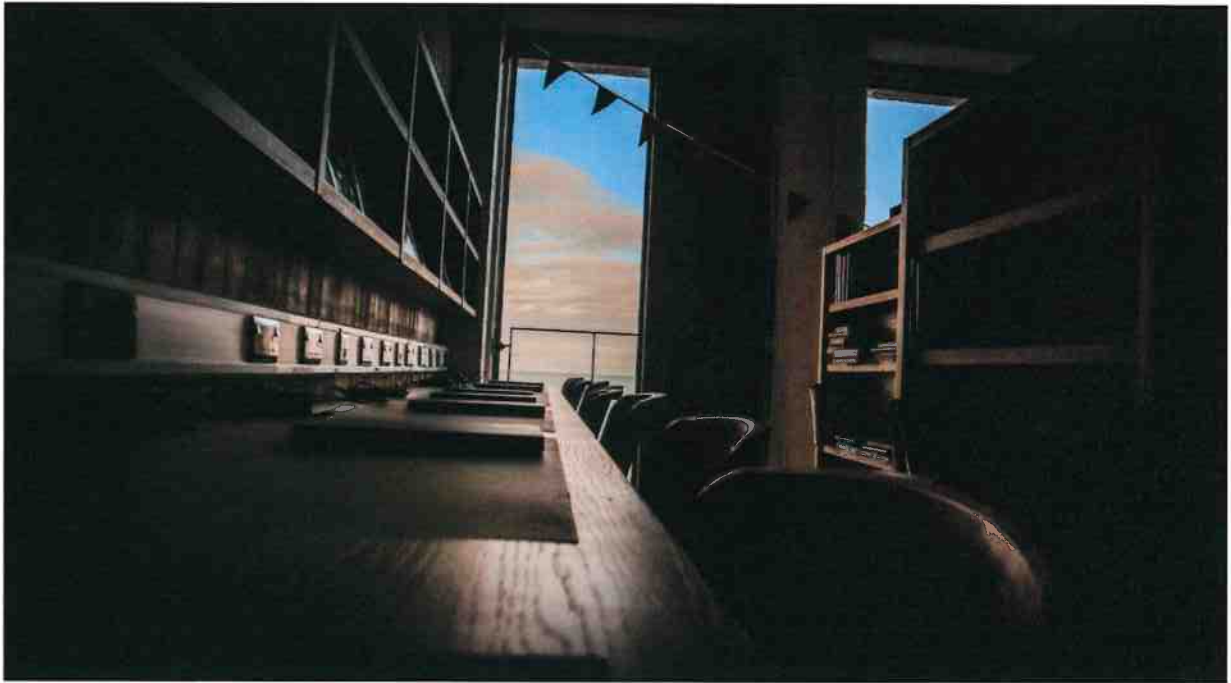
## . Goals

One of the main aims of the library programme over the next few years is to increase visibility and use of the library amongst the whole school community. This will be achieved by further promotion of the library and its services in the Principal's weekly email and by communications to the staff and students.

1. We hope to work with other community leaders and community organisations to promote a love of reading amongst all our staff and students.
2. Plans are afoot to record reading-related podcasts and book reviews and publish them on the school website.
3. We would also like to establish a catalogue computer in one of the main foyers so that the school community can continually access our Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

**This is an active, open, working document subject to revision at any time. The management, staff, students and parents in St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones community are actively encouraged to contribute to it.**





**Signed:**

*James Howley* 27. 4. 2024

**Chairperson of the B.O.M**

**Date:**

27. 4. 2024

**Signed:**

*Simon Carr*

**Secretary to the B.O.M**

**Date:**

27<sup>th</sup> August 2024