

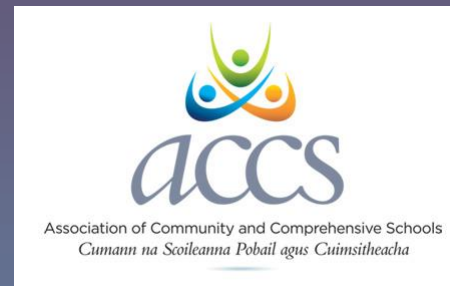
ENHANCING WELLBEING: PROMOTING STUDENT VOICE IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Exploring Models of Practice

Pól Ó Síodhcháin

Principal

Millstreet Community School, Cork



Objectives

- **Examine the Role of Student Voice in Enhancing Wellbeing**
- **Practice What You Preach: Models of Practice**
- **Towards the Learner Voice Space – the importance of Process rather than Product**
- **Questions / Discussion**

**‘...APPEARING TO LISTEN TO
CHILDREN IS RELATIVELY
UNCHALLENGING; GIVING DUE
WEIGHT TO THEIR VIEWS
REQUIRES REAL CHANGE.’**

**UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
(2003, P.4)**

Background

- Scoil Mhuire, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh (Cork ETB)
- 10 mbliana ag múineadh Gaeilge & Tíreolaíochta
- Engaged with SV projects from 2005 onwards

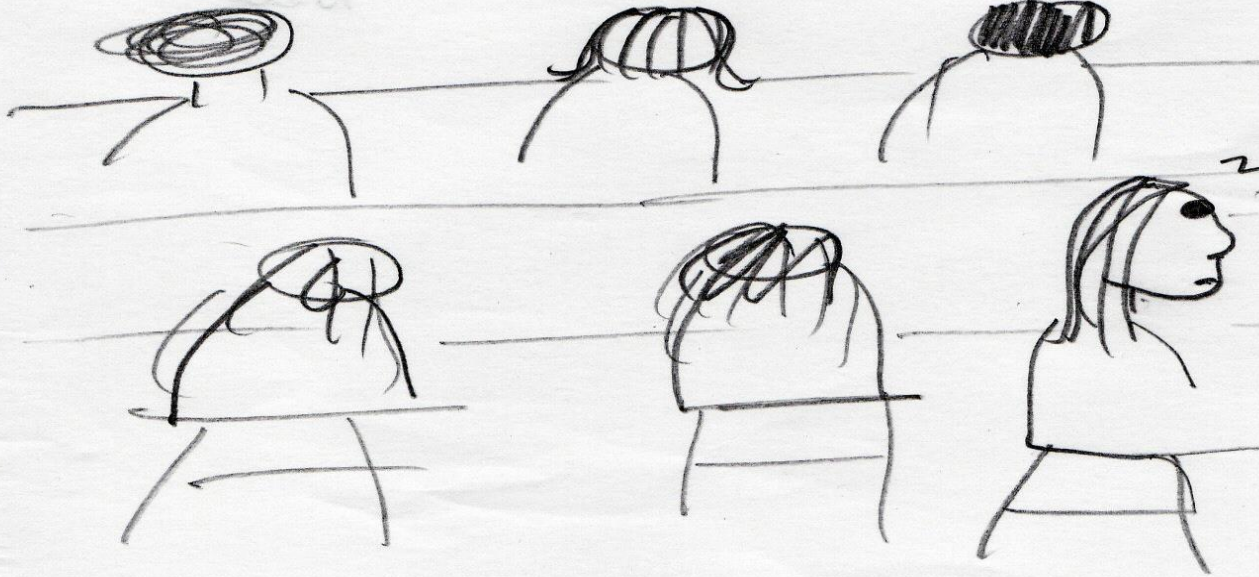
- Coláiste Daibhéid, Corcaigh (Cork ETB)
- 5 bliana mar Phríomhoide Tánaisteach
- Participant school in 'Student Voice: The Bridge to Learning' Erasmus+ NCCA JCT project

- Millstreet Community School, Cork
- Second year as Principal...SV alive and kicking!



2005: My Leaving Cert Students' Perceptions of Themselves as Learners





zzz

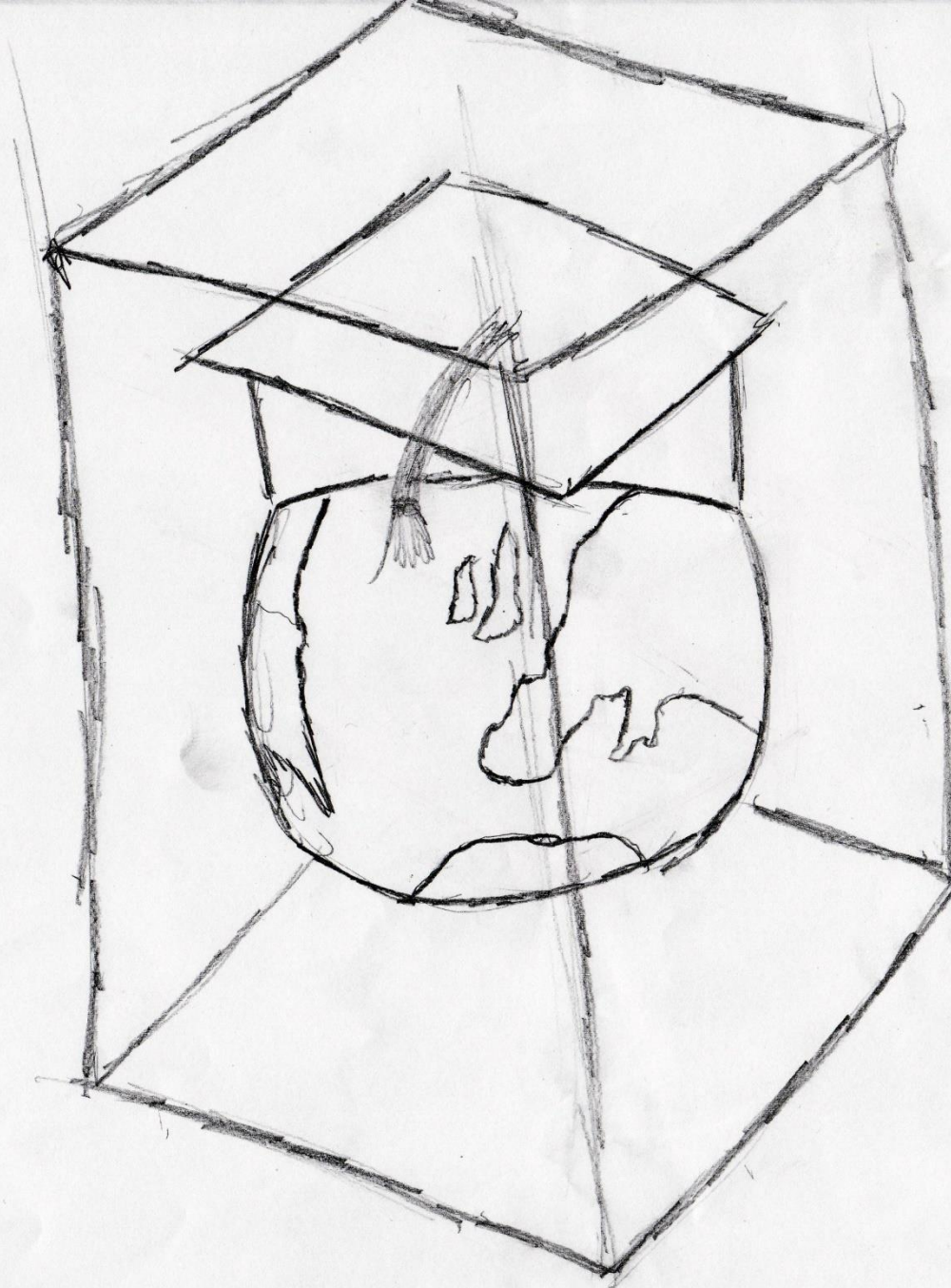


Student Voice...another 'initiative'?

'If we do not give children the opportunity to tell us how they feel, and a chance to influence how they spend their time with us in school, then we make it very difficult for them to engage with us as people and with education itself'

(Hancock and Mansfield 2002)





**I know I am
very good at
school but I
am still in
my comfort
zone**

The Importance of 'Voice'

Learners should be able to “learn in ways that suit their own strengths and needs” and “develop a range of learning strategies” (NCCA: Towards Learning. An Overview of Senior Cycle Education 2009)

Junior Cycle Key Skills: Managing Information and Thinking: Reflecting on and evaluating my learning; Thinking creatively and critically

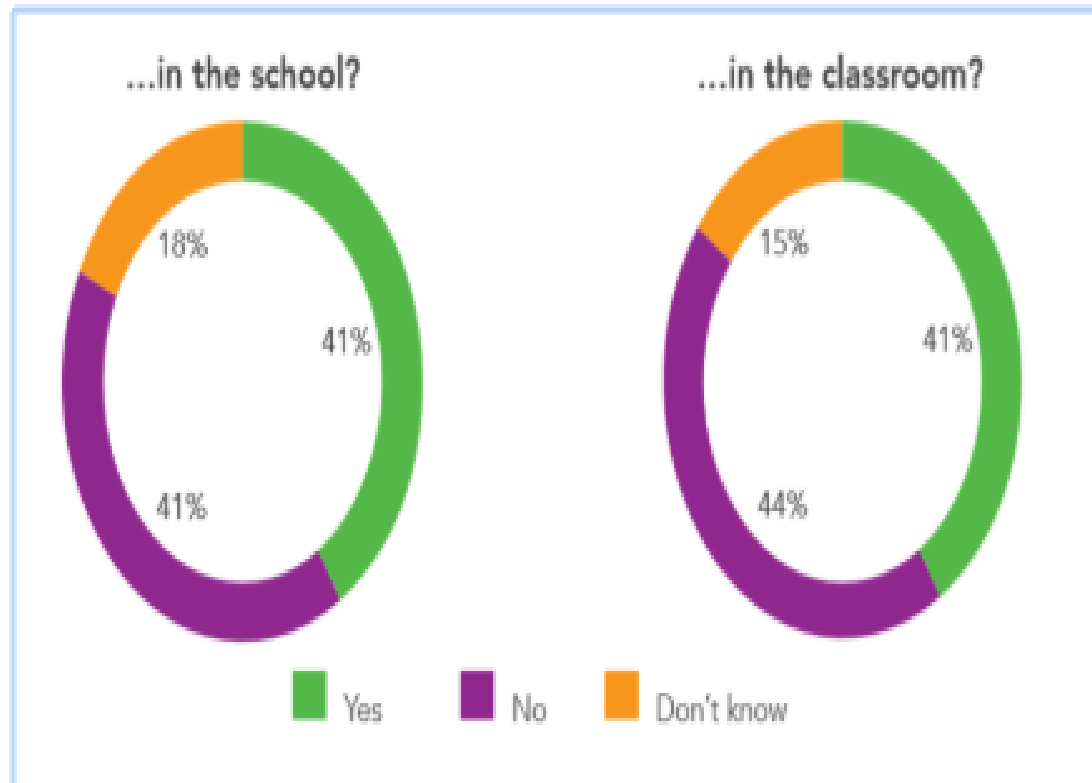
School Self-Evaluation (SSE): assessment of teaching and learning and ‘the inclusion of the voice of students...in school self-evaluation processes’ (Department of Education and School Self Evaluation: Guidelines for Post Primary Schools 2012)

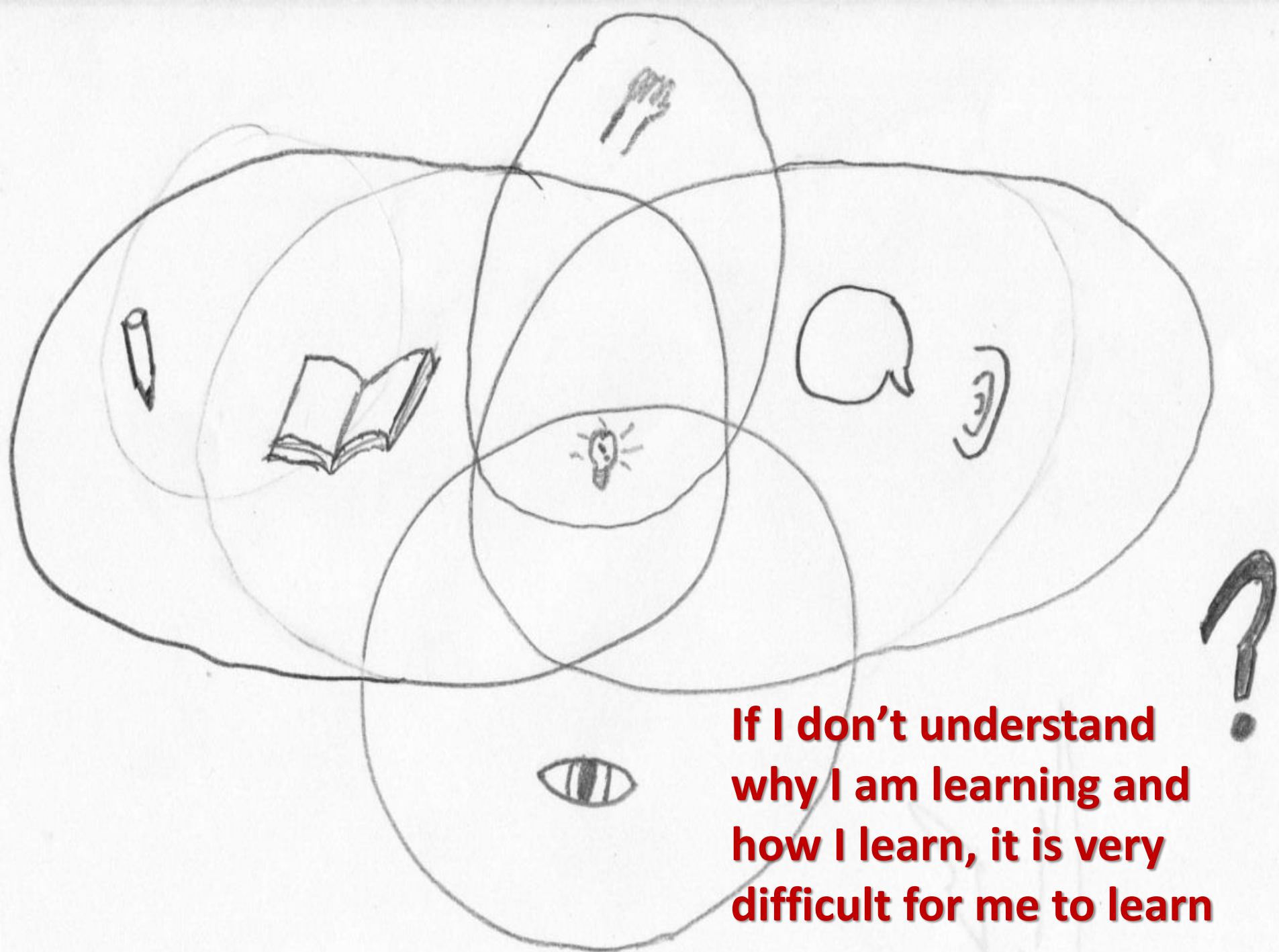


STUDENT VOICE ALSO SPEAKS
TO A RIGHTS-BASED
CONCEPTUALISATION OF A
STUDENT'S ROLE AND POSITION
IN SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS
WITHIN WHICH STUDENTS ARE
AFFORDED A VOICE IN MATTERS
THAT AFFECT THEM

Dr Domhnall Fleming, School of Education UCC (2019)

Do students have a say?





If I don't understand why I am learning and how I learn, it is very difficult for me to learn



PUPILS COLLABORATIVE
LEARNING
FUTURE
MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP SKILLS

LOOKING AT OUR SCHOOL 2016

A Quality Framework for Post-Primary Schools

DOMAINS	STANDARDS
Learner outcomes	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn, and expect to achieve as learners have the necessary knowledge and skills to understand themselves and their relationships demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding required by the post-primary curriculum attain the stated learning outcomes for each subject, course and programme
Learner experiences	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive reflect on their progress as learners and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning experience opportunities to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning
Developing leadership capacity	<p>School leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> critique their practice as leaders and develop their understanding of effective and sustainable leadership empower staff to take on and carry out leadership roles promote and facilitate the development of student voice, student participation, and student leadership build professional networks with other school leaders

Changes in Practice...



Instant Feedback (Edmodo)

< Poll



Mr. Ó Síodhcháin posted to **Bliain 5 Tíreolas**

Teacher at Millstreet Community S...
Apr 20, 2016 11:33 AM

An bhfuil go leor éagsúlachta (variety) sna ranganna tíreolaíochta duit?

11 Responses

Tá 10 (91%)

Níl 1 (9%)



< Poll



Mr. Ó Síodhcháin posted to **Bliain 5 Tíreolas**

Teacher at Millstreet Community S...
Apr 20, 2016 11:27 AM

An maith leat an cineál oibre seo?

11 Responses

Is maith liom 10 (91%)

Ní maith liom 1 (9%)

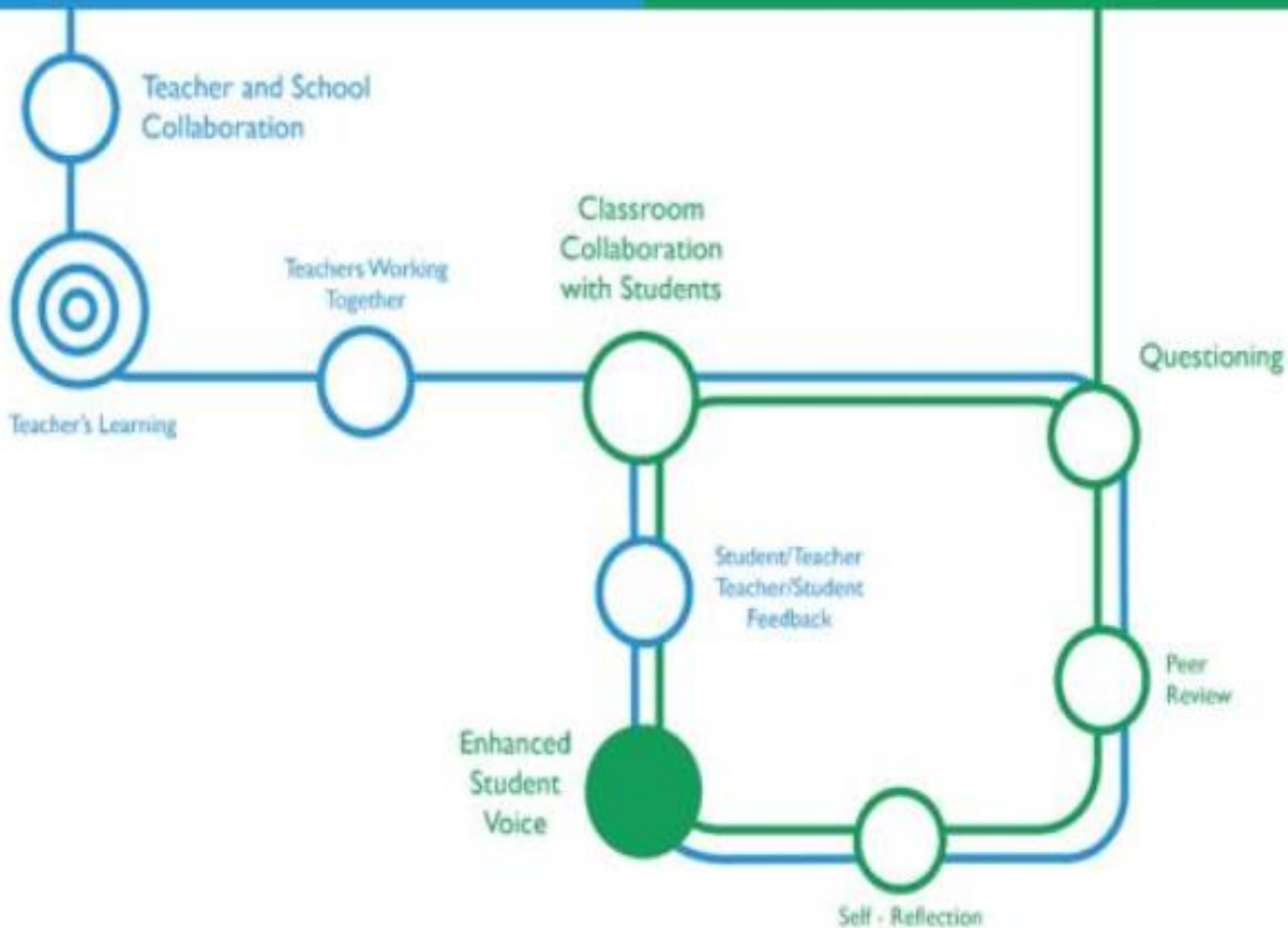


School Support – Bridge to Learning Project in Coláiste Daibhéid, Cork

- **Coiste le Daltaí Idirbhliana, 2 mhúinteoir agus an Príomhoide Tánaisteach**
- **Tacaíocht iomlán ó Bhainistíocht na Scoile**
- **A commitment to having Learning & Teaching on the agenda at regular staff meetings**
- **Comhrá ag tarlú i measc na ndaltaí anois-cad atá i gceist le foghlaim?**
- **How do I learn best?**
- **Cad is féidir liomsa a bheith ag deineamh chun mo chuid foghlama a chur chun cinn?**
- **Conas a chabhraíonn an scoil agus na múinteoirí liom?**

TEACHERS

STUDENTS



Student Voice Initiatives

- **Erasmus + project: Primarily focussed on TY students & Interactions with 2nd Year Students**
- **The main needs of students:**
 - **Variety**
 - **Success Criteria**
- **Participant teachers tried new methods...student feedback obtained and acted upon**
- **Students presented survey results to other classes and to staff at a meeting...**
- **Whiteboards on corridors...opinions sought, heard and valued**

Aig fáil
ceol as nua agus
ag iarraidh a bhaint
páirt

Físeáin

Cabhair do dhá
seacht mí

Ná scread
Or an dalta **éist** leis
an dalta

EXISTE



Ná bí leis ar dath
dul anad as an
rang.

Éist le na
gléidne

Níós soiléir
ag caint

Chomcábair beo
man, úsáid ról
ar ceol agus

Baodúil

Níl anáil beo
an-ádhleach

dhéan mias
cliste

CAD ATÁ i gCEIST
LE FOGHLAIM?

Reagra a Thuirim DEN DALTA chom
caint agus Ruidar a déanamh.

Tarsas S. + Ardleib
Má tá an dalta
sábháilte
craibteach

Foghlaim
Saoirse

Táimid ábalta
den foghlaim

máireadh soiléir
= foghlaim soiléir
Ná bí leis an dalta
an t-ádhleach

Neamhspleáchas

Saoirse

Go dtógfa cist dáinne

MEAS

Sábháilte



Fais
Aisling
Fáil

Cabhair nuair
a chuireann dalta
ceist

Sábháilte
le cainteanna

Cork Simon Community

15³

Greens' Nollay

www.corksion.com

United Adults Fundraising Office 011 232188 Email: Fundraising@corksion.com
0800 500 010

Ceisteanna = ✓

Má dhéanann dalta
rud mí-cóir 66 sé
ceart go leor!

Bí deariach
Bí tuisceanach
Bí Gaelach
Bí láidir
Bí linn



NOCA LinnCYCLE

Examined Student Dates
September 2017

09:00 - 10:00	09:00
10:00 - 11:00	10:00
11:00 - 12:00	11:00
12:00 - 13:00	12:00
13:00 - 14:00	13:00
14:00 - 15:00	14:00
15:00 - 16:00	15:00
16:00 - 17:00	16:00
17:00 - 18:00	17:00
18:00 - 19:00	18:00
19:00 - 20:00	19:00
20:00 - 21:00	20:00
21:00 - 22:00	21:00
22:00 - 23:00	22:00
23:00 - 24:00	23:00
24:00 - 25:00	24:00
25:00 - 26:00	25:00
26:00 - 27:00	26:00
27:00 - 28:00	27:00
28:00 - 29:00	28:00
29:00 - 30:00	29:00
30:00 - 31:00	30:00

scoile

plé i grúpaí
cad a rinne
muid sa rang
deirneach

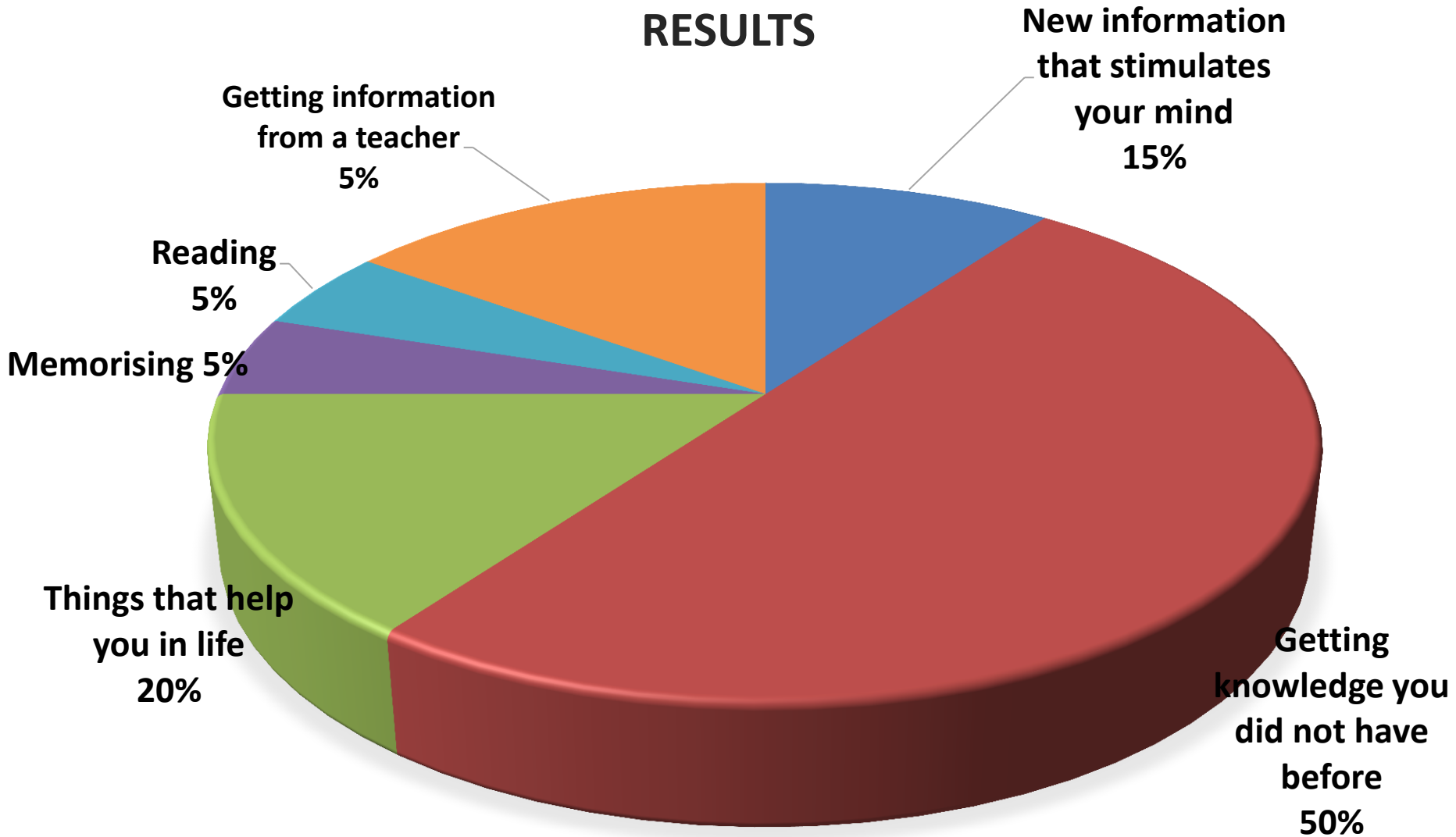
Cad iad na gníomhaíochtaí
a thaitníonn libh chun
a dtús a chur le rang?

mórchéist
chun simn a
chur ag smaoineadh

~~KALIGOT!~~

In your opinion, what is learning?

RESULTS



In my opinion, learning is...

Verbs		Nouns	When?
Finding out	Listening	Knowledge	When needed
Taking in	Seeing	Information	In a situation
Figuring out	Doing	Skills	In school
Getting	Being shown	Ideas	In later life
Developing	To use	Thoughts	
Collecting	Put into practice	Reflections	
Adding	Reuse	Research	
Knowing	Apply	Diagrams	
Gaining	Reproduce	Books	
Acquiring	Remember	Subjects	
Understanding	Help	Facts	
Thinking		Rules	
Studying		Techniques	
Drawing		Definitions	

The Lundy Model of Child Participation (2007)



This model provides a way of conceptualising Article 12 of the UNCRC which is intended to focus educational decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision. The four elements have a rational chronological order:

- **SPACE:** Children must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their view
- **VOICE:** Children must be facilitated to express their view
- **AUDIENCE:** The view must be listened to.
- **INFLUENCE:** The view must be acted upon, as appropriate.



School Context

- **Student feedback on TY experience suggested the need for changes...more substance...opportunities to contribute...**
- **Three-way split in new option block:**
 - **GCE**
 - **Ambassador Schools Programme**
 - **Green Flag**
- **Programmes have ‘status’ on the curriculum...more contact time (in itself a challenge for teacher)...tremendous opportunities for TY students to influence their peers**
- **Lack of ‘space’ for LC Students – Library out of date and dull...can we do something to create a dedicated library space?**





BEFORE



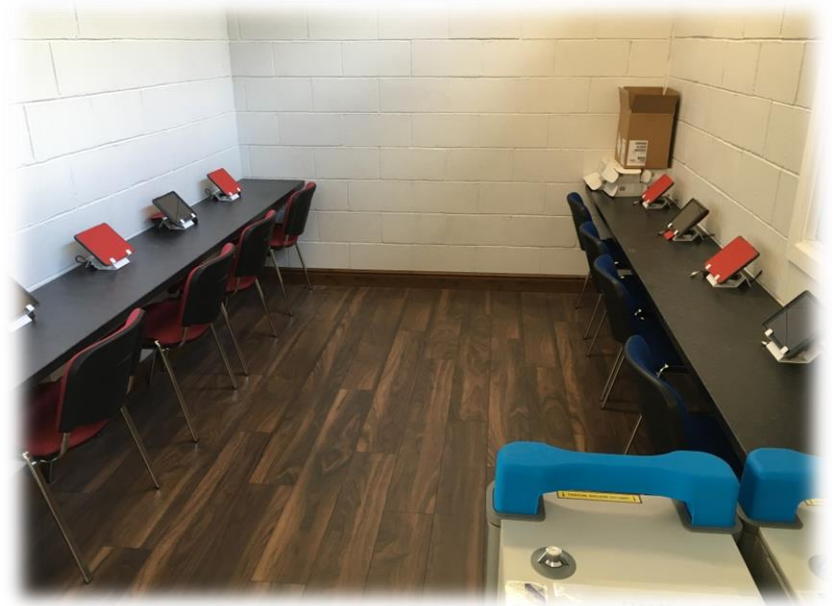


DURING





AFTER



New School Website – December 2018

→ ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://www.millstreetcommunityschool.ie 🔍



[Home](#) [About Us](#) [School life](#) [Parents](#) [Gallery](#) [Contact](#)

News & Events 🔍

Millstreet Community School

CLARA DIES EXPECTAT

Bright days ahead.

Learn and flourish in a calm, caring and creative environment where your voice is heard, your work is celebrated and where we work together, towards the best possible outcome for each individual student. *Watch the welcome video*

About Our School

https://www.millstreetcommunityschool.ie 🔍



WorldWise Global Schools (WWS) Annual Conference 2019
The WorldWise Global Schools (WWS) Annual Conference 2019

Read More →
5 Apr 2019



Library Redevelopment Begins!
Our Library Redevelopment Project began in earnest this week with the removal and dismantling of old shelving

Read More →
5 Apr 2019



TY students visit The Art House
TY Students travelled to Killarney for a unique art experience.

Read More →
2 Apr 2019



SkyDome visits MCS
The SkyDome - virtual tour through the universe- provided all students with a 3D tour of space

Read More →
20 Mar 2019

Upcoming Events

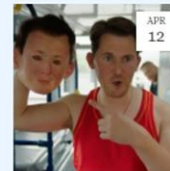
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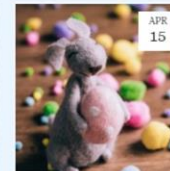
European Tour 2019 Paris
11 Apr 2019 – 14 Apr 2019



Migration Workshop
11 Apr 2019



TY Workshops with Shane Casey
12 Apr 2019

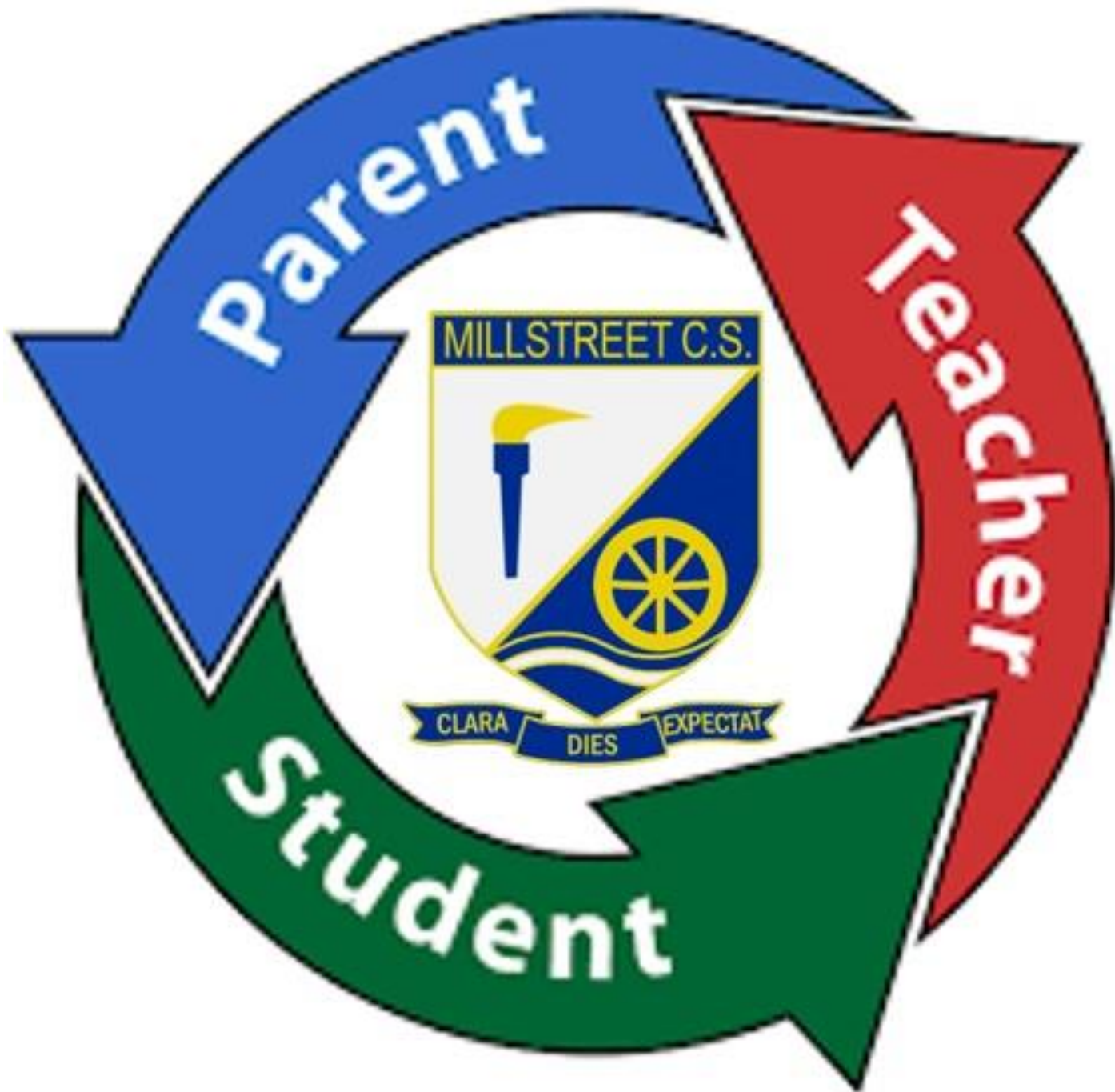


Easter Holidays
15 Apr 2019 – 24 Apr 2019



Culture Week
29 Apr 2019 – 3 May 2019



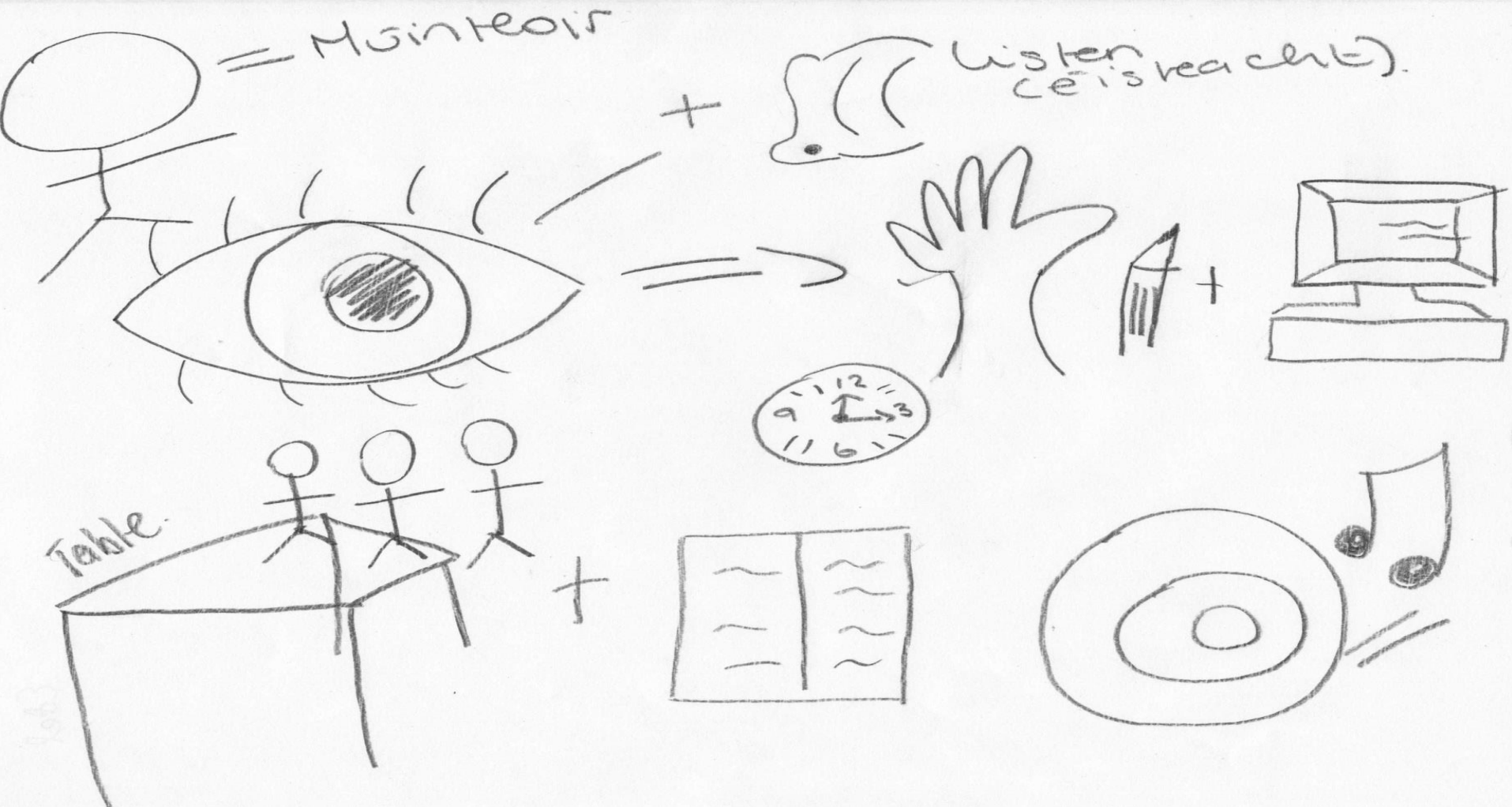




The Learner Voice Space – Dr Paula Flynn (2017)







“Chloe: Why are you really going to learn something that you’re not going to use?”

Cathal: That’s why the teacher needs to try to find a way to make it really interesting.”

P. Ó Síodhcháin (2013) MEd. Thesis ‘Leaving Certificate Students’ Perceptions of Themselves as Learners in a Rural Secondary School’.

Lastly, I'd just like to add that I and many more are very glad to see all the improvements and the vibrancy in the school in the last year. It is much noticed even by those of us that don't have an everyday connection with the school.



Listen to your students
Hear what they are saying to you
Act upon what you hear
Start small...watch the ripple effect!



Enjoy the journey!





Míle buíochas!

Pól Ó Síodhcháin

Principal

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