

Fingal Community College

At Fingal Community College we are very proud of the many opportunities we offer throughout our school for our students to have a voice and have their views represented. We are delighted to be a part of the IL Learner Voice Project, which was the impetus for the Learning Ambassador Programme.

Having analyzed our school SSE data, WSE MLL findings and the finer details of LAOS, we decided that we would further seek to embed student voice into teaching and learning across our school via this project.... and so our Learning Ambassador Programme was born.

Following on from the guidance of Joan Russell (ETBI) and Gerard O'Sullivan (NCCA) at session 1, we agreed to start small and pilot this project with our second-year students. In December 2019, we selected a group of eight students to become our Learning Ambassadors via an application process which was open to all second-year students. Their role would be to promote positive teaching and learning across the school.

Meeting once a week they would:

- Discuss and share feedback of good practice seen and experienced in school.
- Identify areas for improvement and development in learning.
- Recommend additional teaching and learning strategies.
- Organise and deliver training, events and support to peers.

During our initial weekly meetings and discussions our Learning Ambassadors acknowledged that there is a lot of positive teaching and learning happening across our school. They also suggested that there is also a large number of students who are not benefitting fully for a number of reasons; because they lack the motivation to learn, they face barriers to learning or they don't have the necessary skills and tools to support them with their learning. It was agreed that we would conduct a 'learner survey' on a large sample of second year students to ascertain their needs and decide what our next steps would be.



Fingal Community College - Learning Ambassador Application Form

The role of a Learning Ambassador in Fingal Community College is to:

Promote learning	Develop and enhance learning	Inspire others and empower them to learn
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Why are you interested in this role?

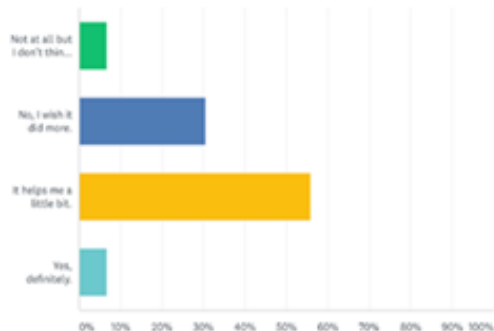
Please outline your skills, qualities and abilities which would make you a good candidate.

What would you like to change / improve / bring to teaching and learning in this school?

Our Learning Ambassadors worked together to draw up a concise survey. It consisted of eight questions that would provide them with information about: how our students learn, if they feel school supports them with their learning and which learning techniques they would like more help and support with.

Do you think your school teaches you how to learn / revise / study at home?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



The key findings from this survey were that the majority of students know what they need to learn but don't know how to learn it. They feel they need more support from school about how to learn outside of lessons and would appreciate more support with specific learning techniques.

Following on from the feedback our Learning Ambassadors decided that they would deliver three 'learning' sessions to all second year students during SPHE lessons. The key areas they would focus on would be those highlighted in the survey findings:

- Recall learning
- Stress management and positive mental health
- Motivation for school, college and life

In which areas do you think you (as a learner) would benefit from having more support and help?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have been temporarily stopped short in our tracks.

To date, the team has divided up into four groups of two. Each duo is currently preparing and putting together a forty-minute lesson on recall strategies that their peers may find useful in supporting them with their learning and that they will deliver to our five second year classes. Our intention had been to deliver one session prior to the Easter break and the next two by the middle of May to support students in their preparation for summer exams but these plans are on hold for now and our Learning Ambassadors remain positive, enthusiastic and keen to deliver session one on our return to the classroom.

As we look to the future, we have many challenges to face; how do we train and upskill our learning ambassadors to ensure a high quality of delivery for all students? How do we raise awareness of this project and get all stakeholders on board and engaged? What steps do we take next to expand this school wide? What is the most effective way to communicate and share our findings and student feedback with teachers? How do we overcome the resistance we may face from various colleagues? As you can see we don't have all the answers just yet but we are learning as we go. We look forward to the cluster meetings organised through ETBI and NCCA, which will give us an opportunity to share our learning and learn from colleagues across the country. If you would like more information on our Learning Ambassador Programme, please don't hesitate to get in touch with rgorey@fingalcc.ie or mdonnellan@fingalcc.ie