

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SEPTEMBER 2013 TO MAY 2016

Theme: Literacy in learning & teaching approaches

Summary of main strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STen scores of 1st Year students for reading are above the national norms. • Attainment in the majority of subjects at both JC & LC is above the national norms. • 60% of students are reading fiction for enjoyment. • There is a critical mass of teachers already using comprehension strategies and students teaching and presenting. • There is willingness to share good practice. • Students are getting some opportunities to develop oral language and are confident working in pairs and small groups.
Summary of main areas requiring improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased expectations and standards in writing across the curriculum. • The development of comprehension and group-work strategies across all subject areas. • Increase the number of students taking higher level in certain subjects for both JC and LC. • Teachers to focus on the development of literacy as well as knowledge and skills.

IMPROVEMENT TARGET	REQUIRED ACTIONS	PERSON/S RESPONSIBLE	MEASURABLE OUTCOMES SUCCESS CRITERIA	TIMEFRAME FOR ACTIONS	REVIEW DATES
To increase the percentage of students surveyed reading for enjoyment for more than one hour per week from 49% in October 2013	1. Reading for enjoyment class timetabled for 1st Years, Book In The Bag for 2 nd Years & "media watch" for 3 rd Years.	Senior management timetabled reading for enjoyment class. Students bring in and read their own books.	Increase in the number of students reading for enjoyment as measured by the student survey. At a minimum, maintain the number of students scoring a STen of 4 or more and reduce the number of students scoring a STen of 3 or less in the standardised reading test in 2014/15.	Reading for enjoyment class every week during 2013/14 for current 1 st years. BITB during free classes & DEAR time for current cohort when they are in 2 nd year in 2014/15. Media Watch in all classes at least one a week for current cohort when they are in 3 rd year in 2015/16.	Updates at staff meetings. Survey administered in October of 2013/14/15 to track progress & analysis of STen in 2014/15.
	2. Literacy core team will conduct	Literacy core team liaise with 1 st Year Maths	An increase in the number of books read by students as	Survey administered to parents @ 1 st Year induction night in	Parents @ PTM 2 nd Years Feb 14

to 59% in October 2014 and from 59% in October 2014 to 64% in October 2015 and from 64% in October 2015 to 69% in October 2016	an adolescent reading survey with 1 st Year students & parents.	teachers to analyse the survey as a cross curricular activity.	measured by the survey. An increase in the number of students joining & using the public library as measured by the survey.	Aug 2013 & students in Sept 2013 (on-line) & analysed in September of 2013.	3 rd Years Nov 14 Students Sept 14/15
	4. English Dept. will purchase 5 sets of 30 different books per class based on teacher recommendation & students preference.	English Department & students.	Records of books read in student's journals checked by tutor. Tutors fir 1 st Year are also 1 st Year English techers.	Every month in 2013/14/15.	May 2014/15/16
	5. 1 st Year students will record books read in their journal.	1 st Year students record books read in their journal. Class tutor check the student's journals. Parents sign the journals.	Records of books read in student's journals checked by tutor. Tutors for 1 st Year are also 1 st Year English techers.	Every month in 2013/14/15.	May 2014/15/16
	6. Subscription to Accelerated Reader purchased for students in learning support.	Learning support teachers. 1 st Year students.	Student's forward progression tracked on Accelerated Reader. The number of students scoring STens of less than 3 to be reduced in 2014/15.	During learning support class once per week during 2013/14/15	May 2014/15/16
	7. CSPE students will hold a competition to see who earns the most rice for 3rd world countries on FREERICE.COM	1 st Year CSPE teachers 1 st Year CSPE students Languages, Science, English, Geography, Humanities & Maths departments can use as a resources also.	An increase in the number of students reading from digital media as measured in the student survey. Record of students performance recorded on FREERICE.com	Students to use FREERICE.COM in CSPE and other classes class and at home with parental permission in 2013/14.	Updates at CSPE subject department meetings in 2013/14.

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<p>To increase the number of students who check their work for mistakes from 20% in 2013 to 30% in 2014 and from 30% in 2014 to 40% in 2015 and from 40% in 2015 to 50% in 2016.</p>	<p>1. Staff agree on a common editing checklist and ensure that students self-edit written work consistently across the curriculum.</p>	<p>All teachers.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of 1st Year students who believe that their writing is neat & legible as measured by survey & teacher observation. A decrease in the number of 1st students who do not like writing as measured by survey.</p>	<p>Staff meeting in May 2013.</p>	<p>May 2014/15/16</p>
	<p>2. Editing checklist will be incorporated into student diary, teacher diary and on all classroom walls.</p>	<p>Senior management. All teachers.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of 1st Year students who use an editing checklist as measured by survey.</p>	<p>Survey to be administered & analysed in September 13/14/15</p>	<p>September 14/15</p>
	<p>3. A sample of work will be taken from three students from each of the five 1st year groups from a range of subjects and analysed against an agreed set of criteria.</p>	<p>Literacy core team.</p>	<p>An increase in the standard of writing as measured by the tracking of sample students from a range of abilities, classes & subjects. An increase in the number of students who refer to the key exam verbs in their journal, as measured by survey.</p>	<p>2013/14: Presentation (clear, neat handwriting) & Punctuation (eg. Capital letters.,?!’:;’) 2014/15: Spelling (use dictionary and spell check) & Paragraphing 2015/16: Sentence structure (all necessary parts of the sentence must be in the correct place) & Developed answers (use connectives and key words to answer question asked)</p>	<p>September 14/15</p>

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<p>An increase in the number of students who are most comfortable sharing their ideas and working in pairs/small groups from an average of 55% in 2013 to 65% in 2014 and from 65% in 2015 to 70% in 2016 and from 70% in 2015 to 75% in 2016</p>	<p>1. Staff development of pair/group work and use of rubric as a self-assessment tool.</p>	<p>Literacy core team & PDST advisor</p>	<p>Forward progression on pair/group work rubric. An increase in the use of pair/group work by teachers as measured by survey. An increase in the experience and enjoyment of group work by students as measured by survey & teacher observation.</p>	<p>CPD August 2013 Survey Sept/Oct 14/15/16</p>	<p>Oct 14/15/16</p>
	<p>2. All teachers will use a range of comprehension strategies that can scaffold pair/group work activities.</p> <p><u>Examples</u> <i>Fray Model</i> <i>Word Trail</i> <i>Think-pair-share</i> <i>KWL</i> <i>Anticipation guide</i> <i>Discussion web</i> <i>Placemat</i></p>	<p>Literacy core team trial strategies. Demonstrate to staff. All staff implement across the curriculum.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of teachers who use comprehension strategies as measured by survey. An increase in the number of students who find that comprehension strategies aid their learning as measured by survey. An increase in the standard of comprehension as measured by teacher observation & test results.</p>	<p>Trial of strategies: May 2012. Implementation across the curriculum Sept 2013 onwards. Survey September 14/15/16.</p>	<p>Sept 14/15/16</p>
	<p>3. All subject departments will identify the relevant elements of the key skill “working with others” & incorporate strategies to embed this in their subject plan.</p>	<p>All Junior Cycle teachers</p>	<p>An increase of the awareness of the key skills amongst teachers as measured by survey. An increase in the proficiency of the key skill as measured by student survey & teacher observation.</p>	<p>Initial audit August/September 2013 Implementation of strategies from Sept 2013 onwards.</p>	<p>Sept 2014</p>