

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR LITERACY SEPTEMBER 2021 TO MAY 2022

<p>Summary of main strengths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much good practice continues to exist in promoting literacy and the literacy group, co-ordinated by Ms. P. O'Reilly continues to carry out great work in promoting literacy among the student body and within a classroom context. • A 1st year book club was established. This was organised by the literacy group and it was well attended by students. This is something that both the literacy group and outgoing 1st year students would like to see continue and it is something that could be extended in the next academic year to include 1st and 2nd year student. This was a huge success and students continued to meet remotely during the school closures. • They organised the 1st and 2nd year annual spelling Bee • The School Closure did not dampen their enthusiasm and they created reading challenges, book reviews and 'Get caught reading competition' keeping everyone connected and having fun through the medium of social media. • DEAR week (twice per annum) continues to be a significant event on the academic calendar. • The senior prefects have been trained in using the library system and continue to offer opening times during lunch break from Monday to Thursday to junior students. • An improvement target in the area of literacy was to increase student's confidence when reading aloud in class or doing presentations. • 93% of students surveyed said they had been asked to read aloud or make a presentation in class. • 57 % of staff felt that student's confidence had increased and 41% answered maybe to this question. • Two members of staff completed the HSE Mind Out training programme
<p>Summary of main prioritised areas for improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A target was set last year to provide Junior Cycle students with workshops which would teach them important tips and techniques for public speaking. Due to timetabling constraints this was unable to happen. It will be prioritised for the next academic year and will be included again as a target. It will be prioritised for the next academic year as part of the class tutor programme whereby every junior cycle student has one dedicated class tutor period per week. • Few opportunities for external well-being presentations were organised due to funding restrictions. It is hoped to assign money to

	<p>pay for some external well-being presentations during the next academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35% of the students said they did not like reading aloud, they commented that they feel anxious and nervous about this.
<p>Actions to support the implementation of School Improvement Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting reading for enjoyment among students. Classes will continue to be encouraged to go to the library to read and to borrow books. Students will be encouraged to review books both in writing and orally in class. • Literacy group will organise a Readathon for 1st and 2nd Years in the weeks leading up to DEAR week. Record sheets will be created for all students and they will be collected during DEAR week and prizes will be awarded to those who have read most books. • Transition Year Students will continue to be provided with a dedicated library period where they can borrow/renew books and read for pleasure. • First year students will have a dedicated library class once a week as part of their English curriculum. • All teachers and students will continue to engage in DEAR week twice yearly. • The school will seek to improve oral skills through public speaking and debating. Competitions will facilitate this at both junior and senior level. • The school will seek to encourage creative writing and will publish students work on the school website. The literacy group will run essay writing competitions for first years and encourage a high standard of written work. • The literacy group will continue to promote literacy skills through displays on the literacy landing and a spelling bee competition for first years • The school library has been updated and senior prefects will continue to be trained in using the library system. They will continue to offer opening times during the lunchbreak to junior students. • From September 2020 there will be a dedicated period for class teachers to meet with all 1st and 3rd year students under our wellbeing programme. The Class teacher will focus on improving student’s skills and confidence in public skills. A dedicated programme has been devised for class tutors to roll out incorporating some parts of the “Lets stand programme”. • Well-being and managing stress/anxiety – It is envisaged that each junior class will have one period each week on a withdrawal basis which will focus on developing strategies to help them cope with stress and anxiety. This will be facilitated by the wellbeing committee. This was not possible to roll out during 2020/2021 due to Covid and will be subject to Covid restrictions in 2021/2022 also. • Students were asked how they could be supported more to read aloud/make presentations and they made the following comments; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask who wants to read and not pick randomly, ▪ for a presentation allow them to do a voice recording privately and then use this in class, ▪ teachers should give compliments and words of encouragement,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ do presentations in smaller groups and outside the big class, ▪ use activities and games to increase confidence, ▪ teacher goes through presentation privately before the student does it in class. ▪ Some of the comments were made in relation to CBA presentations • Staff made similar suggestions in relation to improving student's confidence when it comes to reading aloud/making presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make public speaking part of all subjects ▪ Allow students to speak within smaller group ▪ In group work assign roles and rotate the role of the speaker within the group ▪ Teacher would assign the amount to be read as they know what the student is capable of. ▪ Provide feedback ▪ Have group work games to build confidence and trust. • 1st & 4th Years have ICT periods on their timetable. • The computer rooms will be maintained over the summer months and all repairs carried out. • CPD opportunities for ICT courses will displayed on the notice board in the staffroom. • A Junior Book (1st/2nd Years) Club will continue to meet. It is anticipated that they would meet once every 3/4 weeks to decide on a book, read it and come back to the group to discuss it. It would be hoped that they could create a recommended list of books to read for other students in their classes.
--	--

***** ALL IMPROVEMENT TARGETS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO COVID 19 HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES *****

IMPROVEMENT TARGET	REQUIRED ACTIONS	PERSON/S RESPONSIBLE	MEASURABLE OUTCOMES / SUCCESS CRITERIA	TIMEFRAME FOR ACTIONS	REVIEW DATE
<p>Improve students' enjoyment of reading and create more opportunities for them to read.</p>	<p>Organise a Readathon in the lead up to both DEAR weeks</p>	<p>SSE co-ordinator</p> <p>Literacy Group & Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Student Participation and Evaluation</p>	<p>1 year</p>	<p>May 2022</p>
<p>Increase student's confidence when reading aloud in class or doing presentations</p>	<p>1st, 2nd & 3rd year Class teachers will meet with their classes once a week and will focus on improving student's skills and confidence in public skills. A dedicated programme has been devised for class tutors to roll out incorporating some parts of the "Lets stand programme".</p> <p>Each year group will have one period each week on a withdrawal basis which will focus on developing strategies to help them cope with stress and anxiety.</p> <p>External well-being presentations to assist Junior students develop strategies to cope with stress and anxiety.</p>	<p>Outside facilitators</p> <p>Class teachers</p> <p>Subject teachers</p> <p>Well-being committee</p> <p>SSE Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Staff/student survey</p> <p>Participation levels</p> <p>Teacher observations</p>	<p>1 year</p>	<p>May 2022</p>

<p>Students would have more opportunities to use ICT within the classroom and gain confidence in using ICT for classwork and presentations</p>	<p>CPD opportunities for ICT courses will displayed on the notice board in the staffroom and inhouse training will be provided by the Digital Leaders.</p> <p>Students will be given guidance on how to access files and work in Teams and also shown how to upload their work and send emails with attachments to subject teachers.</p> <p>Parents will be offered the opportunity to purchase student devices through Wriggle Learning. It is hoped that a good number of parents will take up this opportunity and thus increase students use of ICT (See teaching and Learning SIP)</p>	<p>Subject teachers</p> <p>SSE Co-ordinator</p> <p>ICT coordinator and technician</p> <p>Digital leaders</p> <p>Literacy group</p> <p>Deputy Principal</p>	<p>Student/staff survey</p>	<p>1 year</p>	<p>May 2022</p>
--	---	--	-----------------------------	---------------	-----------------