

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR LITERACY SEPTEMBER 2018 TO MAY 2019

### Summary of main strengths

- Much good practice continues to exist in promoting literacy and the literacy group.
- Subject teachers incorporated a key word test into in-house Christmas and Summer Examinations. This key word test was given to all 1<sup>st</sup> year students. This was not just a spelling test, it required students to use the word in the correct context.
- 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.
- Work has begun on renovating the digital library.
- After retesting a random sample of first years, it was found that student scores for reading and spelling fell within the average range.
- After conducting a survey with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year students (234 students), it was found that:
  - **49% like reading a little,**
  - **84.6% consider themselves to be good at reading,**
  - **48.5% like writing very much,**
  - **46.5% believe they are good at writing.**
- After conducting a survey with staff (15 responses), it was found that:
  - **61.5% believe students contribute effectively and appropriately to discussions,**
  - **61.5% believe students are good at presenting information orally both clearly and effectively while 38.5% felt students were fair at this,**
  - **61.5% believe students are good at understanding, collating, summarizing, applying and evaluating information from different pieces of text while 38.5 % answered fair to this statement,**
  - **58.3% believe that their students are good at discussing similarities and differences between different pieces of text, 33.3% answered fair to this question,**
  - **53.8% stated students were good at making effective use of subject specific vocabulary in their written work, 38.5% answered fair,**
  - **46.2 % felt students were good at critically evaluating information found using digital sources,**
  - **61.5% stated they were good at creating subject specific presentations using digital media,**

<p><b>Summary of main prioritised areas for improvement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After conducting a survey with 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> year students it was found that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>37.2% read less than an hour a week and 21.8% don't read at all outside school,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>17.5% don't read any books in a month and 22.2% read less than one book per month,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>49.3% are not at all confident when speaking aloud in class,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>36.2% state that they are unable to search what they are looking for using the internet,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>50% agree that they can use digital media to create their own texts/presentations,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>40.3% report that they can use ICT appropriately and responsibly,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Requests by students for more use of computers for class work and assistance for students reading aloud within a class,</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• After conducting a survey with staff, it was found that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>46.2% feel that students are fair at making notes and summarizing ideas through written work,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>53.8% reported students to be fair at critically evaluating information found using digital sources,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>15.4% stated they were fair at creating subject specific presentations using digital media,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Comments in relation to oral work – Some are very good while others are very shy and reluctant to share information, some rarely contribute to discussions, not comfortable with it,</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Comments in relation to reading – literacy levels low, very small percentage count reading as a hobby and this comes against them in school.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Based on the data above the main areas for improvement for the coming academic year will be:</p> <p>To provide more opportunities for reading,</p> <p>To provide assistance to students who are experiencing difficulty/anxiety when speaking aloud in class and making presentations,</p> <p>To create more opportunities for staff and students to use ICT within the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Actions to support the implementation of School Improvement Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting reading for enjoyment among students. Classes will 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.</li> <li>• A Readathon will be organised by the literacy group in the weeks leading up to DEAR week, record cards will be created and prizes will be awarded to those who read the most books.</li> <li>• The school will seek to improve oral skills through public speaking and debating. Competitions will facilitate this as both junior and senior level.</li> <li>• The school will endeavour to set up public speaking workshops for Junior Cycle student, in particular 3<sup>rd</sup> years.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The literacy group will continue to promote literacy skills through displays on the literacy landing and a spelling bee competition for first years.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The majority of staff now have a Surface Pro and will have in-school CPD in the next academic year with a view to improving the use of ICT in the classroom. Two class sets of chrome books (10 per class) will be purchased this year.</li><li>• Students will have an Office 365 account set up to allow digital communication with their subject teachers.</li><li>• It is envisaged that class sets of tablets will be trialed in the next couple of years. This will begin with LCA students this year when 10 tablets will be purchased for use within their classes.</li><li>• Work will continue on the establishment of the Digital library.</li><li>• Teachers will be actively encouraged to participate in external IT CPD through regular promotion of upcoming courses.</li></ul>
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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>Initiate a junior book club to meet at set periods throughout each term.</p> <p>Organise a Readathon in the lead up to both DEAR weeks.</p>	<p>Student council &amp; prefect post holder</p> <p>SSE co-ordinator</p> <p>Literacy Group &amp; Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Student Participation and Evaluation</p>	<p>1 year</p>	<p>May 2019</p>
<p>Increase student's confidence when reading aloud in class or doing presentations</p>	<p>Junior Cycle students will be provided with workshops which will teach them important tips and techniques for public speaking.</p> <p>Each year group will have one period each week which will focus on developing strategies to help them cope with stress and anxiety.</p> <p>Opportunities for external wellbeing presentations will be organised during the year. For example, 1st years will take part in the Relax Kids programme during induction days at the beginning of the year. It is hoped that 3rd years will also have the opportunity to take part in the same programme in the run up to their mock examinations.</p>	<p>Outside facilitators</p> <p>Subject teachers</p> <p>SSE Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Staff/student survey</p> <p>Participation levels</p> <p>Teacher observations</p>	<p>2 years</p>	<p>May 2020</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>Majority of the Staff have now a Surface Pro and will continue to receive CPD during the coming academic year. This will naturally introduce more ICT in the classroom.</p> <p>All students will have an Office 365 accounts this will allow for the sharing of class notes and homework to be submitted digitally etc.</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>The digital library will be open for use and for teachers to bring their classes to.</p>	<p>Subject teachers</p> <p>SSE Co-ordinator</p> <p>ICT coordinator and technician</p> <p>Digital leaders</p>	<p>Student/staff survey</p>	<p>2 years</p>	<p>May 2020</p>
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