



St. Conleth's Community College

Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

70680U

School Improvement Plan 2014/2015

Testing and Measuring

- Introduce CAT4 to test students' ability on entry to the school. Administer this in March/ April prior to entry. In case of 2014/2015 enrolment administer in late September 2014.

In addition to this all students will undertake a Literacy Test as follows:

- Test literacy/written work of 1st Year and 2nd Year students on entry to school in September. Use a standardised test and allocate marks for presentation, proofreading, punctuation, capital letters etc.

Grade the tests in bands (approx 80 students)

- e.g. 0-5 errors
 5-10 errors
 10-15 errors
 15-20 errors

and convert to percentages e.g. 20% have 0-5 errors

- From the results of both of the above a sample group of approximately 50 students will be chosen and their individual scores recorded.
- Retest this sample in December and March following the implementation of the Improvement Plan. Compare and analyse the results for each individual in the sample group. Use the results to identify problems and help formulate strategies to solve them, making the link between improvement plan and learning outcomes.

Improvement Plan

- From September each student in Junior Cycle must have two copies per subject. Copies may be hardback or regular. All regular copies will be covered - covers provided by school as necessary. Parent will be notified that two copies per subject are required.
- One written piece of work will be completed in each subject per week. The subject groupings in Maths, English, Practical and Language areas will agree the frequency, type of work and monitoring. The type of written work will vary from subject to subject. This will be observed for quality and presentation as well as learner achievement. Assessment for Learning will be used.
- A sample of properly presented written work will be included in school journals for 14/15.
- Teachers may decide to retain a test copy in the classroom for this purpose or may use the homework copy. When a copy is full the teacher will retain it in the classroom as a record of work.
- Assessment for Learning is to be employed by all staff and it is hoped that feedback given to students will encourage performance and raise expectations. Development of varied literacy techniques on a phased basis through implementation of Barrie Bennett strategies. Target group will be First/ Second Years.
- Employ a number of other initiatives throughout the year to raise awareness of literacy and homework with students

E.g.

- Drop Everything and Read 1 week Sept- Oct
 - Homework Week – Nov/ Dec
 - Record number of students with complete homework and incentive for best class e.g. cinema trip before Christmas
 - Reading Challenge Jan/ Feb
 - Homework Club for 1st and 2nd Years and After School Study for exam years will be promoted.
- Re-test Sample Group in March

- Copies and Journals will be randomly checked by Principal/ Deputy Principal/ Class Tutor and early intervention for students not performing will take place.
- It is hoped in 14/15 to start introducing Numeracy Strategies in all areas of the curriculum. The focus for this school year will be time. Clocks, both digital and analog, and calendars will be available in all rooms in the school. Teachers in each subject area will work on introducing some aspect of time into their lesson plans.

Review

In Summary:

- Evaluation shows that written aspect of Literacy needs to improve.
- Measurement and target group identification will take place as outlined.
- Improvement Plan for written work and its assessment will be implemented using Subject Groupings of Teachers and Methodologies from Instructional Leadership.
- Numeracy Initiatives will be introduced this year and numeracy will be the main focus of the 15/16 improvement plan.
- Results sought:
 - More engagement of students
 - Improvement in attainment in all areas
 - Improved retention of students
 - Improved State Exam results

Precise measurement criteria for these results are available in the DEIS Plan.