

School Improvement Plan - Literacy

June 2015

Strengths:

- An English Department that is proactive and willing to share good ideas and practice
- A teaching staff willing to engage in school development programmes
- Lots of good practice in the area of Literacy developed over the last few years
- A student cohort entering school who achieve grades higher than the National Norms in both English and Maths
- High uptake of HL English at Junior and Leaving Certificate (71%)
- Almost 50% of students choose 'I enjoy reading' when asked (answer 4 or 5)
- 54% of students read more than one hour/week
- 60% of students read fiction

Summary of main areas requiring improvements

- 19% of students do not like writing at all
- Only 16% of students check for mistakes when writing
- 18% of students surveyed do not enjoy reading
- 19% of students surveyed said that they did not read
- **To be considered** 63% of students use the internet to answer a question, 42% of students enjoy learning using technology, 35% enjoy reading digital media most

Improvement Targets	Required Actions	Success Criteria / Measurable Outcomes	Persons Responsible	Timeframe for Actions
<p>Target 1 To raise awareness in the staff of the importance of Literacy in their subject. To realise the impact of a positive staff attitude to Literacy on the students.</p>	<p>Carry out and review a staff survey on Literacy</p> <p>Discussion on reasons for results and possible strategies which would result in improvements</p>	<p>Strategies enumerated and brought forward for implementation.</p>	<p>All staff, Development group</p>	<p>August staff meeting</p> <p>Croke Park hours</p>

Target 2 To identify problem areas relating to Literacy	Discussion and decisions on responses to problems highlighted	List of problem areas	English Teachers	October 2015
Target 3: To increase the use of IT in reading and research in all subjects	Increased use of the Library by class groups. Increased use of interactive IT in class.	Survey to assess use of the agreed methods and problems encountered	Co-ordinated by Development team All staff	October to Christmas 2015
Target 4: To continue to improve the uptake of Higher Level English at JC and LC level.	Students encouraged to attempt Higher Level Positive comments on written work. Review of Study Skills classes in relation to Literacy	Improved uptake of HL English	English teachers, All staff	September 2015 - ongoing
Target 5: To increase the use of problem solving strategies in all classes.	Raised awareness among staff of the relevance of problem solving strategies in all subject areas. Develop methods to use team work and problem solving in all subjects - Classroom organization and related practical issues	Increase in the number of teachers using these strategies from 22% to 40% over three years	All staff, Subject groups	September 2015 - ongoing

Croke Park hours will be used to work on these targets and to develop strategies to improve on the survey results at the beginning of this document.

The work will be done by all staff: during full staff meetings, by subject department teams, by individual teachers. It will be coordinated by the development team who will hold regular meetings to assess progress and to improve on this plan.

As the three year period goes on the current targets may be adjusted and others may be added, work on these targets will be ongoing over this period and change will be measured using focus groups and surveys.