

School Improvement Plan

Summary for the School Community



St Mary's Knockbeg College 61130 H

2020 - 2023

Summary School Improvement Plan

1. Introduction

As part of our ongoing school development planning work in Knockbeg College, we conducted a School Self-Evaluation in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Learning.

This School Improvement Plans sets out the actions that, we as a school community, will take over a three-year period to improve our students' learning in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Learning.

2. Summary of School Self-Evaluation Findings

1. Literacy

*Our school has **strengths** in the following areas:*

Strengths
<p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentages of students taking higher level papers are analysed and compared against national standards every year. The numbers of students being examined at higher level in Junior and Senior Cycle is above the national average.• The average results in the CAT 4 standardised test in Literacy are above the national average.• A cross-curricular Literacy Committee has been established and a Literacy Co-ordinator has been appointed.• A library class has been introduced for first years.• A commitment to having a literacy rich environment has been established.• A commitment to implementing a comprehensive whole school approach to improving literacy has been established.

We know this because:

- We consulted with the school community during the self-evaluation process. Evidence based data and information was gathered from a range of methods and analysed.
- We surveyed students on their attitudes towards literacy.
- We evaluated the literacy scores of our students in the CAT 4 standardised assessments against the national average.
- We analysed the percentage of students sitting higher level exams in English and compared our results against national averages.
- We also used anecdotal evidence from teachers.

*Our school has decided to prioritise the following **areas of development***

Areas for Development

Literacy

- To encourage literacy to be expressed positively in daily life and to encourage engagement in literacy activities.
- To increase students' engagement in reading for pleasure.
- To develop a literacy policy which embraces a system of tracking and monitoring literacy capabilities among students, using standardised tests.
- To develop and implement common whole school strategies to improve literacy.
- To increase the percentage of junior students who are confident in using grade descriptors.
- To develop a new on-site school library.

2. Numeracy

Our school has **strengths** in the following areas:

Strengths

Numeracy

- Percentages of students taking higher level papers are analysed and compared against national standards every year. The 2020 targets as set out by the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 -2020, are 60% of students sitting Higher Level Mathematics for Junior Cycle and 30% of students sitting Higher Level Mathematics for Senior Cycle. The student cohort in Knockbeg College have met these targets.
- The average results in CAT 4 standardised testing in numeracy are above the national average.
- A cross-curricular Numeracy Committee has been established with a Numeracy Co-ordinator.
- A commitment to having a numerate rich environment and to implementing a comprehensive whole school approach to improving numeracy has been established.

We know this because:

- We consulted with teachers, students and parents during the self-evaluation process. Evidence based data and information was gathered from a range of methods and analysed.
- We surveyed students on their perceptions and capabilities in numeracy.
- We evaluated the numeracy scores of our students in the CAT 4 standardised assessments against the national average.
- We analysed the percentage of students sitting higher level exams in Mathematics and compared our results against national averages.
- We also used anecdotal evidence from teachers.

*Our school has decided to prioritise the following **areas of development***

Areas for Development
<p>Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To encourage numeracy to be expressed positively in daily life and to encourage engagement in numeracy activities.• To develop a numeracy policy which embraces a system of tracking and monitoring numeracy capabilities among students, using standardised tests.• To develop and implement common whole school strategies to improve numeracy.• To increase the number of students that report using numeracy in non-traditional numerate subjects.• To reduce the percentage of students who report having difficulty with numeracy on a regular basis.

3. Digital Learning

*Our school has **strengths** in the following areas:*

Strengths
<p>Digital Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A cross-curricular Digital Learning Committee has been established and a Digital Learning Co-ordinator has been appointed.• A five-year digital learning plan, 2019 – 2024, has been developed and implemented.• A commitment to having a digitally rich environment has been established.• A commitment to implementing a comprehensive whole school approach to improving teaching, learning and assessment through the use of digital technologies has been established.• The development and delivery of targeted in-school CPD in the area of digital learning is ongoing.

We know this because:

- We consulted with teachers, students and parents during the self-evaluation process. Evidence based data and information was gathered from a range of methods and analysed.
- For example, we analysed teacher, student and parental surveys on Digital Learning.
- We analysed feedback from students and teachers who engaged in CPD.
- We used anecdotal evidence from teachers also.

Our school has decided to prioritise the following **areas of development**

Areas for Development
<p>Digital Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to establish a common mode of communication and collaboration between staff and between staff and students. • To improve the number of teachers, students and parents who report confidence in using Teams, when engaging with teaching, learning and assessment strategies. • The need to develop and implement a common three-year curriculum plan for junior students in computers, in the effective use of Office 365 to enhance learning opportunities. • The need to develop and implement cross-curricular plans on the safe use of digital technologies and appropriate communication online.

3. Targets for Improvement

Our school has set the following targets for improvement which are related to student achievement. We have also identified the following actions which will help us to achieve these targets over a three-year period.

1. Literacy

Targets for Improvement	Action
For literacy to be expressed positively in the everyday life of students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy board and teams site with weekly literacy activities. • Quote of the week. • Database for literacy to be developed. • Literacy game room during long lunches. • Designated reading space outside. • Improved resources – library (on-site and online).
To improve students' engagement in reading for pleasure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book in the bag strategy. • No such thing as a free class strategy. • Engagement with the quiet space for reading. • Paired reading partner. • Library class for first years. • Improved resources – library (on-site and online).
To develop and implement a literacy policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking of literacy capabilities of students using standardised tests. • Implementation of targeted literacy strategies to address common issues found in the tracking process.
To increase students' confidence in using grade descriptors correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade descriptor posters in every classroom, junior student resources and database teams site and subject teams site. • Teachers to leave grade descriptors blank in assessments for students to convert the mark to a descriptor, building skill and confidence.

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As a parent, we would appreciate your help by encouraging your child to read and to engage fully with all of the literacy initiatives in the school.

We know we will have achieved our targets when:

1. We see improved results in CAT 4 literacy assessments in Transition Year 2023.
2. We see improved results in the literacy Drumcondra Reading Tests in second year in 2023.
3. We see improved results in the 'Attitudes to Literacy' survey.
4. 90% of students have engaged in literacy activities within the school.
5. 60% of students are reading for pleasure for more than two hours a week.
6. A literacy policy is implemented that will embed one successful whole school literacy strategy per year.
7. 95% of junior students use grade descriptors correctly in 2023.

2. Numeracy

Targets for Improvement	Action
To encourage numeracy to be expressed positively in the everyday life of students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numeracy board and teams site with weekly numeracy activities.• Puzzle of the week.• Database for numeracy to be developed.• Numeracy game room during long lunches.• The entire school community focusing on speaking positively about Maths, to avoid 'Maths Phobia'.
To increase the numbers of students who can correctly convert a fraction to a percentage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers to leave assessment marks in fraction format, with students completing the process.• Fraction to percentage method posters in every classroom, student resources and database teams site and all subject teams site.
To develop and implement a numeracy policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracking of numeracy capabilities of students using standardised tests.• Implementation of targeted numeracy strategies to address common issues found in the tracking process.
To increase the number of students who report having an opportunity to use numeracy in all subjects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common approaches to numerate topics across subjects to be developed and implemented.

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As a parent, we would appreciate you help by encouraging your child to develop a positive attitude towards numeracy and to engage fully with all of the numeracy initiatives in the school.

We know we will have achieved our targets when:

1. We see improved results in CAT 4 numeracy assessments in Transition Year 2023.
2. We see improved results in the numeracy Drumcondra Tests in second year in 2023.
3. We reduce the percentage of students reporting having difficulties in numeracy regularly by 43%.
4. 80% of students report that all of their teachers speak positively about Maths in the classroom by 2023.
5. 90% of students will have engaged in numeracy activities within the school.
6. An increased number of subjects will be reported by students who give them an opportunity to use numeracy.
7. A numeracy policy is implemented that will embed one successful whole school literacy strategy per year.
8. 85% of students will be able to correctly convert a fraction to a percentage by 2023.

3. Digital Learning

Targets for Improvement	Action
All members of the school community to use Teams as the common mode of communication/collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school community will be supported through in-school CPD, designed and delivered by the school's Digital Learning Committee.
To improve teacher confidence when using Teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training to be provided to all teachers and SNA's with extra supports for those in need. • Training material available in the digital staffroom.
To improve student confidence when using Teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training to be provided to all students with extra supports for those in need. • Training material available in the student resources and database teams site and all subject teams sites.
To improve parent/guardian confidence when using Teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training (optional) to be provided to parents/guardians to support their son's understanding of Teams.
To develop and implement cross-curricular plans on the safe use of digital technologies and appropriate communicate online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cross-curricular curriculum content plan of teachers of Digital Learning, SPHE and CSPE and RSE will be developed to deliver modules on the safe use digital technologies. • Digital learning teachers will teach students the concept of 'netiquette'.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent evening to support in the development of positive and respectful interactions online.• The school will celebrate Safer Internet Day each year.
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As a parent, we would appreciate you help by encouraging your child to develop a positive attitude towards digital learning and to engage fully with Teams.

We know we will have achieved our targets when:

1. We see 100% of members of the school community use Teams for communication and collaboration in 2023.
2. 95% of teachers report confidence in using Teams for engaging with teaching, learning and assessment strategies by 2023.
3. 95% of students report confidence in using Teams for engaging with teaching, learning and assessment strategies by 2023.
4. 50% of parents/guardians report confidence in using Teams for engaging with teaching, learning and assessment strategies by 2023.
5. The implementation and evaluation of cross-curricular plans on the safe use of digital technologies and appropriate communication online.

Date for Review of School Improvement Plan:

This plan will be reviewed in September 2021