



Loch Garman

Coláiste Éamonn Rís

Thomas Street, Wexford

School Improvement Plan

Literacy

2013-2016

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY OF MAIN STRENGTHS

- Good teaching practice in English lessons.
- Good provision for English on the timetable.
- Uptake at Higher Level in Junior Certificate is very high and significantly above national norms.
- Willingness of staff to try new teaching approaches.
- Willingness of staff to engage positively with literacy strategies.
- Many of the classrooms have a print rich environment.
- Students have a positive disposition to reading arising from previous literacy initiatives.
- Some subject departments have developed their own subject libraries.

SUMMARY OF MAIN AREAS PRIORITISED FOR IMPROVEMENT

- A lot of the whole school initiatives introduced to date were very much focused on reading. While building on these initiatives, focus also needs to be put on introducing initiatives in areas such as oracy, writing and understanding of various different media.
- While uptake at J.C. Higher Level English is above national norms, uptake for L.C. Higher Level English is below national norms.
- More appropriate reading materials need to be provided following consultation with students on the matter.

Target No. 2 Higher Level English Leaving Certificate					
Improvement Targets	Required Actions	Person(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Actions	Success Criteria/Measurable Outcomes	Review Date(s)
To increase the number of students taking Higher Level English in the Leaving Certificate from 49% to 52% by 2014, from 52% to 55% by 2015 and from 55% to 58% by 2016	1. Higher Level English in Fifth Year to be available for all those who took Higher Level in Junior Certificate 2. Promotion of reading for pleasure in T.Y. 3. Focus on creative writing in T.Y. 4. English Dept. to continue to develop plan to maintain high uptake of H.L. in Junior Certificate. 5. Academic monitoring of performance in English across all years and exams relative to Sten and CAT scores 6. CPD on standardised testing and assessment information	1. English Dept. 2. English Dept. 3. English Dept. 4. English Dept. 5. Senior Management/Year Head/Class Persons 6. Senior Management	1. Information to parents on First and Third Year/T.Y. Information Nights 4. Monthly check by tutor/Year Head of journal results grid 6. CPD in 2014	Increase in the number of students attempting Higher Level English in the L.C. All students attempting Higher Level to achieve at least a D grade	August 2014 August 2015 August 2016
	7. Standard form and procedure for changing levels 8. Year Head/Assistant Year Head monitoring and mentoring	7. Senior Management/English Dept. 8. Year Head	Develop change of level form Formulate procedures October 2013	Standard Form and Procedures in students' journal	September 2014
	9. Whole school approach to explicit instruction of the significant difference between values attributed to higher and ordinary level grades	9. All teachers/Guidance Counsellor.	First Term in 2013/14/15	More positive attitude to taking Higher Level English (Attitudinal Survey)	November 2013 November 2014 November 2015

Target No. 3 Improving students' oracy skills				
Improvement Targets	Required Actions	Person(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Actions	Success Criteria/Measurable Outcomes
Decrease the number of students (First Year cohort 2013-14) who do not like to speak in front of their class peers by 10% in Year 1, 10% in Year 2 and 5% in Year 3.	1. CPD for staff on oral language strategies including pair/group work and agreed checklists for oral presentations. 2.Oral presentation to become part of the assessment of all First year students in every subject	1. Literacy team. 2. All First Year teachers	1. Staff Meeting December 2013 2. Christmas 2013/May 2014	1-2.Increase in the number of teachers using pair/group work and oral presentations as part of their teaching methodologies in First Year classes (Documented in Subject Dept. minutes/ Staff survey).
	3.All First Years to attend Speech and Drama workshop with a specific focus on oral presentations	3.Senior Management/English Dept.	3. May 2014/ 2015/2016	3. Students more willing to participate in pair/group work and class discussions (Staff survey).
	4.Guide to be provided to parents to help them support their child through the oracy programme	4.Senior management and literacy link teacher	4. May 2014/2015/2016	4.Increase awareness among parents as to the merits of oral literacy development (Parental survey).