

Whole-School Literacy Policy

Adopted by the Board of Management on 20th November, 2012.

Introduction

- Literacy underpins the school curriculum by developing students, abilities to speak, listen and communicate.
- Competent literacy skills enable pupils to read, understand and access materials in order to achieve their full educational potential across the curriculum.
- Literacy opens up personal pathways to success and is central to personal expression and active participation in the society, economy and culture.
- All teachers have a crucial role to play in supporting literacy development. The following objectives and strategies have been devised to clarify the role of teachers in supporting a whole school approach to literacy.

Objectives.

- Across the board testing of first years attainment in Numeracy and Literacy to be introduced in the academic year 2012-2013. Subject teachers to be given feedback from tests on students literacy attainment in first term.
- Subject specific literacy to be taught in all subjects, including subject specific vocabulary and to recognise the reading and writing demands of all subjects.
- To promote whole-school literacy by creating and maintaining a print-rich environment in all subjects.
- To provide opportunities and encouragement to enable students to read for information and for pleasure.
- To support in-service training in the area of literacy.
- The policy objectives to be delivered in 2012-2013 and reviewed on an annual basis.

Specific Strategies – 2012-2013

- Standardised Testing GRT (Group Reading Test) and WRAT (Numeracy and Literacy) tests to be administered to 2012-2013 first year cohort - feedback given to all teaching staff.
- Subject planning meetings to develop – word lists and subject specific strategies for improving literacy.
- A ‘book in the bag’ initiative to be introduced with first year students and reading to be prioritised during ‘supervision classes’.
- Student workshops to be run in conjunction with South Dublin County Libraries to teach students how to access electronic reading materials.
- A Junior Cycle – recommended reading list to be compiled and distributed.
- An awards system to promote reading for pleasure to be developed.
- School library reading materials to be upgraded to reflect recommended reading list.