



## 1. Introduction

### Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan 2016-17

#### 1. Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our last improvement plan, the findings of this self-evaluation, and our current improvement plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

#### 1.1 Outcomes of our last improvement plan from [September 2015] to [May 2016]

##### Literacy

- Students are more aware of the language that they use within the school and how appropriate/not appropriate the use of certain words/phrases are.
- Speech and language has improved with the help of a speech and language therapist (NBSS).
- Attitudes towards reading have improved through literacy week, Catch-Up Literacy and Paired Reading.
- Staff have undergone training with the NBSS and have completed courses in VEP & CatchUp Literacy.
- Key words have been expanded to all juniors.

##### Numeracy

- Most of the staff has included numeracy elements to their subject plans
- We have been successful with our yearly numeracy drive and we have successfully engaged 100% of our students in our Numeracy related activities in the school.

##### E-Learning

- We realised that we did not have the infrastructure available in order to approach the E-Learning year with any confidence.
- We began the process of looking at the infrastructure of the school in order to improve it and be prepared for the coming year and implementation of the E-Learning Year

#### 1.2 The focus of this evaluation

We decided to improve literacy levels by improving students' attitudes towards reading in St. Vincent's during the period (*September 2016*) to (*May 2017*). We evaluated the following aspect(s) of literacy:

##### Literacy

- Attitude towards Reading.
- Oral language.
- Fully functional library.
- Key words at all levels.

##### Numeracy

- We plan to improve the numeracy and the students enjoyment of numbers through the process of SSE this year
- Continue with numeracy drive and trying to have all students in our school experience numeracy during the course of the year.
- Computation of percentages as whole school approach

##### E-Learning

- Upgrade infrastructure of school in relation to E-Learning

## 2. Findings

#### 2.1 This is effective / very effective practice in our school

- Students enjoyed the teachers' "A book I have read recently" posters around the school
- Most English teachers are now trained in VEP and are running the course with first year students.
- Every junior student has a key word journal and they use it regularly in all subjects.
- A buzz was created this year around oral language and presentation – Senior Debating Club runs once a week during lunch time. Also a 'Public Speaking Competition' was held for all first years.



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- Unfortunately the library was not accessible this academic year but by next year this facility will aid reading for enjoyment in the school.
- Paired reading between TYs and 1<sup>st</sup> years.
- Whole school approach to Spelling and Grammar – Christmas and Summer exams have incorporated Spelling, Grammar and the labelling of questions into the overall grade (10%).

### 2.2. This is how we know

- Students were asking teachers about the books displayed on the walls which demonstrated their interest levels in reading for enjoyment.
- Both debating and the Public Speaking Competition were very successful. Students expressed their enjoyment of both aspects and want them to continue next year.
- Students and teachers felt the Paired-Reading initiative worked well and will continue next year.
- Students were encouraged to pay closer attention to spelling and grammar as they knew this would affect their grade.

### 2.3 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our practice further

- Encourage reading for enjoyment by using the new library and the mini-libraries within teacher-based classrooms.
- Extend practice of oral presentation by increasing the number of literacy events throughout the year for juniors – Public Speaking Competition, Halloween Creative Writing Recital, Valentine's Day Poetry Reading and a Spelling Bee.
- Debating will be extended to accommodate Junior Cycle students and entry into national competitions will be encouraged.
- Spelling and grammar checklists made available to students in order for them to self-assess work.

### 3. Our improvement plan

On the next page we have recorded:

- The **targets** for improvement we have set
- The **actions** we will implement to achieve these
- **Who is responsible** for implementing, monitoring and reviewing our improvement plan
- How we will measure **progress** and check **outcomes** (criteria for success)

As we implement our improvement plan we will record:

- The **progress** made, and **adjustments** made, and **when**
- **Achievement of targets** (original and modified), and **when**



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**Our Improvement Plan Literacy**

Timeframe of this improvement plan is from Sept 2016 to May 2017

Targets	Actions	Persons / groups responsible	Criteria for success/ deadlines	Progress and adjustments	Targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attitude towards Reading.</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Literacy Drive</li><li>Paired Reading</li></ol>	SF and the S.S.E. team R.D. and SEN team	All students have engaged in the literacy drive.	Had to be cut to one week due to the time of year (mid-May) – will be held earlier next year to avoid this happening.	Schedule for earlier in the year next year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oral language.</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Public Speaking Competition</li><li>Debating</li></ol>	S.F. and other first year English teachers (F.H. & S.Q.)	Students enjoying both speaking in public and listening to peers – essential skills for the new Junior Cycle. Selection of class representatives created sense of pride.	Students responded extremely well and feedback from them was very positive.	The success of the competition led us to believe more events such as this would be welcomed by the students and we will plan more for next year.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fully functional library.</li></ul>	<p>No action could be taken here as the building was not finished by the initial deadline. As a result boxes of books had to be given to each Junior class for reading selection</p>	<p>S.S.E team</p>	<p>The boxes of books were received well but not ideal as students' selection and choices were very limited.</p>	<p>The new library building will be fully functional by Sep. 2017 and will facilitate reading groups, book borrowing etc.</p>	<p>Use of the fully functional library will be put on hold until Sep 2017</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Key words at all levels.</li></ul>	<p>All Junior students use Key Word journals All Seniors use Key Word sections in their homework journal</p>	<p>Management order and teachers fill in with students</p>	<p>All students in the school are actively using the key word journals</p>	<p>Students at Junior level may lose the Key Word Journal over the summer The use of Key Word Journals is so frequent that they may fill up.</p>	<p>Consider putting Key Word Journal on the book list for each year.</p>



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**Our Improvement Plan Numeracy**

Timeframe of this improvement plan is from Sept 2016 to May 2017

Targets	Actions	Persons / groups responsible	Criteria for success	Progress and adjustments	Targets achieved
<p><b>Target 1</b> To increase percentage of students able to compute percentages</p>	<p><b>1A</b> Maths Department undertake a common approach to teaching percentages</p> <p><b>1B</b> Use common calculator for ease of instruction in maths</p> <p><b>1C</b> Students calculate own percentage in exams (Give back marks as a fraction and students compute percentage themselves)</p>	<p>All Staff Numeracy Committee</p>	<p>Students using Common approach to computing percentages</p> <p>Feedback from classroom teachers that students have been able to compute percentages without any difficulties</p>	<p>A common approach was introduced to staff in maths dept and other subject depts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Target 2</b> 100% of our students in the school are subjected to some form of numeracy related activities outside of maths class during the year St. Vincent's.</p>	<p><b>2A</b> Organise an annual numeracy drive in the school which lasts 1-2 weeks dependant on available time.</p> <p><b>2B</b> Activities during the Numeracy Drive that we</p>	<p>All Staff Numeracy Committee</p>	<p>Review of Numeracy Drive</p> <p>Ensure engagement of entire school community in the numeracy drive</p> <p>Results of Darts and</p>	<p>Numeracy Drive changed to one week from two weeks last year</p>	<p>Numeracy drive was successful based on the feedback from staff and students</p> <p>Ongoing on a Yearly Basis</p>



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	<p>organised are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darts</li> <li>• Treasure Hunt (Numeracy)</li> <li>• Estimate number of beads in a Jar</li> <li>• Numeracy Quiz</li> <li>• Maths Puzzle of the Day</li> <li>• Poster Competition</li> <li>• Decorating School</li> <li>• Designated Numeracy class every Day for all Years</li> <li>• St Vincent's Census</li> </ul>		students adding their own scores		
<p><b>Target 3</b> Planning for E-Learning</p>	<p><b>3A</b> Get all of our ICT equipment up to date so that we can effectively implement our E-Learning intervention next year</p>	<p>All Staff Numeracy Committee ICT Co-ordinator</p>	<p>New Wi-Fi System New updated Computer System New Projectors New Library</p>		<p>Wi-Fi system has been updated and we are moving forward with our E-Learning Year</p>