



St Vincent's Secondary School,
Glasnevin, Dublin 11



Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan 2014-15

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 2013] to [May 2014]

- This was a year of preparation.
- Our aim is to improve student's attitude towards reading.

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 2014*) to (*May 2015*). We evaluated the following aspect(s) of literacy:

- Improved handwriting
- Attitude towards Reading
- Commonly misspelled words
- Key words in 1st year.
- Planning for numeracy.

2. Findings

2.1 This is effective / very effective practice in our school

List the main strengths of the school in teaching and learning.

- Students began to see the leisure element in reading as the full forty minutes gave them time to enjoy their book, this was increased from 20 minutes last year based on staff feedback.
- A whole school approach to handwriting, capital letters and full stops meant at some level all students were involved.
- Students were made aware of the impact of their handwriting, the Christmas test marking scheme got students of all abilities talking about handwriting, capitals and full stops.
- The hardback keyword journals are proving durable and place a significance on key words.

2.2. This is how we know

List the evidence sources. Refer to students' dispositions, attainment, knowledge and skills.

- After two weeks all staff were surveyed a second time, they 100% agreed they enjoyed the Literacy Drive and it should continue.
- Staff and students enjoyed having the entire class not just 20 minutes.
- Keyword journals were supplied to first years, these were reviewed by management and are a success, as nearly all subjects are engaging.

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

Specify the aspects of teaching and learning the school has identified and prioritised for further improvement.



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- During the literacy Drive, students are writing on random pieces of paper we will supply copies next year to ensure that there is more of an important emphasis placed on the written element.
- Some staff did not correct the questions after the reading, this will be addressed next year.
- Roll out keyword journals to 2nd years.

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 Numeracy

Timeframe of this improvement plan is from Sept 2015 to May 2016

Targets	Actions	Persons / groups responsible	Criteria for success	Progress and adjustments	Targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make students more aware of their handwriting.	Students are made aware that during in – house exams their handwriting will be marked.	Each teacher to correct individual exams. The SSE committee will publicise the event.	Christmas Tests, marks given for handwriting.	More publicity of this initiative as a lot of staff did not engage. Retry for Summer tests.	Make students more aware of their handwriting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attitude towards reading	Two week literacy drive, where students will be encouraged to read a book of their choice. Students will be surveyed before and after the Literacy Drive on their attitude towards reading. A guide was put on each students desk to	EML to set up this books and questions for the Drive. All staff to supervise and encourage the students.	All students to engage in the literacy drive. Improvement to the literacy surveys, in attitude.	Students need to be given copies to better engage with the reflective questions.	Attitude towards reading are improving, students enjoyed the reading class.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commonly Misspelled words • Keyword journals	<p>help them with commonly misspelled words.</p> <p>All 1st years are given keyword journals for free.</p>	<p>EML to devise list, SSE team to edit this list and the SNA's to laminate lists.</p> <p>Ordered by management, all staff must use them.</p>	<p>Students report on how useful the list is.</p> <p>Class teachers see an improvement in students misspelling worlds.</p> <p>Students actively writing in all keywords.</p>	<p>Students did not like the lists on the desks. Some classes thought they had been targeted.</p> <p>Students removed or vandalised the lists.</p>	<p>A decline in commonly misspelled words</p> <p>Keyword journals are filling up.</p>
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