



**St Vincent's Secondary School,  
Glasnevin, Dublin 11**



**Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan 2015-16**

**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.

Following a school self evaluation process in St Vincent's (SSE Report 1st April 2015) the school agreed to focus initially on three areas for school improvement:

1. Literacy
2. Numeracy
3. E-Learning Planning

This is the school's strategic plan in relation to promoting numeracy. This strategic plan is an integral part of the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

**1.1 Outcomes of our last improvement plan from Sept 2014 to May 2015**

Literacy

- Student's have better reading material available to them.
- Student's attitude towards reading is improved.
- Students were given a checklist to highlight commonly misspelled words, this was not well received.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years are all using keyword journals.

Numeracy

- We surveyed parents, staff and students.

**1.2 The focus of this evaluation**

We undertook self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the period *Sept 2015 to May 2016*. We evaluated the following aspect(s) of teaching and learning:

Literacy

- Use of formal language
- Attitude towards reading



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- Upskilling of staff to literacy initiative.
- Key words extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> years.

**Numeracy**

- In future we will only use google forms for our surveys.
- Parent responses were very low and in future we will follow up survey with a text

## **2. Findings**

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

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

*Literacy*

- Students enjoyed the teacher participation and a buzz was created around the staff book reviews.
- The copies made the written element as important as the book, knowing the work was going to be corrected pushed students to do their best.
- More supports could be offered to students as more staff were trained in literacy improvements. Students were offered the Vocabulary Enrichment Programme, Catch up Literacy and Rapid Plus.

*Numeracy*

- 80% of fifth years think that maths is useful in everyday life
- 75% of fifth Year students want to develop their maths skills
- There is an awareness of numeracy among staff and all staff members are willing to engage in promoting numeracy through their subject areas although many of the staff were not confident with numeracy.
- All staff members are aware that numeracy is not just about maths and they try to relate numeracy to real life situations in all subjects.
- All classes are mixed ability classes and there is an appreciation of the differing levels of numeracy ability within the class.

### **2.2. This is how we know**

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

*Literacy*



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2015/2016 Literacy drive was reviewed during a staff meeting.

### Numeracy

- We have tested all 1st year students on the CAT tests and analysed the results
- We surveyed all 1st Year Students on their attitudes to maths
- We have surveyed Parents on their attitudes to maths
- We surveyed staff in the school and asked about their views on numeracy
- All staff were surveyed online during a Croke Park meeting to examine how they felt about Numeracy in their own subject

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

Based on the surveys we decided we needed a whole school approach to improving the attitude towards Numeracy and also to make people aware Numeracy is a relevant component to almost every subject. As a result we set the following Target areas to improve: **maths class during the year St. Vincent's.**

### 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 2015 to May 2016

Targets	Actions	Persons / groups responsible	Criteria for success	Progress and adjustments	Targets achieved
<b>Target 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use of formal language.</li></ul>	Place formal language posters in each classroom. Form teacher to deliver a presentation to their class on formal language zone.	Speech and Language therapist, SSE Committee, SNA.	Decrease in foul language related suspensions.	Students are definitely more aware of their language inside the classroom.	Target has not been achieved, as suspensions are not down.
<b>Target 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attitude towards reading</li></ul>	Literacy Drive, Drop + Read.	SSE Team, EML running drop + read. JH to survey staff.	Students surveyed after the drive.	Although we are seeing improvements, this is an ongoing target.	Students are all engaging with the literacy drive.
<b>Target 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upskilling of staff to literacy initiative.</li></ul>	Staff freed up to attend training both in school and out	NBSS to provide training.	Staff trained by end of year.	All 1 <sup>st</sup> year teachers attended training.	All first year teachers are qualified in VEP.



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<p><b>Target 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Key words expanded to all Junior Certificate.</b></li></ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years used Keyword journals in all classes.</p>	<p>Ordered by management, all staff must use them.</p>	<p>Students actively writing in all keywords.</p>	<p>Students are filling up keyword journal.</p>	<p>The teachers are using them and so are the students.</p>
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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
<b>Target 1</b> By end of October 2015 we will have all subject departments with a numeracy plan in their individual subject plans.	<b>1A.</b> To schedule staff meeting and inform staff that we are undertaking an SSE process for Numeracy in the school <b>1B.</b> Inform all subject departments that during their scheduled subject department meetings they must begin work on a numeracy element for their subject plans and integrate numeracy into their schemes of work. <b>1C.</b> Each staff member with the help of their students will explore where numeracy occurs in their subject area and will display the results in their classroom.	All subject Departments All staff SSE Committee Management	Department plans are containing a numeracy element by end of October 2015		Target Achieved October 2015



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<p><b>Target 2</b> To increase the percentage of First Year students who enjoy at maths in our school.</p>	<p><b>2A</b> Numeracy Drive <b>2B</b> More fun activities like out of classroom learning in maths <b>2C</b> Banding maths classes at junior and senior cycle classes so that there is freedom to move students through the levels <b>2D</b> Investment in ICT infrastructure in order to be able to use different methodologies in the class (including maths)</p>	<p>All subject Departments (Especially Maths Dept) SSE Committee</p>	<p>Higher uptake in HL Maths at Junior and Leaving Cert Maths</p> <p>Assignments in TY based on Sport and other hobbies</p> <p>Use of new and innovative teaching methodologies in the classroom using ICT</p> <p>Use of outdoor activities when learning about maths</p>		
<p><b>Target 3</b> To increase percentage of students able to compute percentages</p>	<p><b>3A</b> Maths Department undertake a common approach to teaching percentages <b>3B</b> Use common calculator for ease of instruction in maths <b>3C</b></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>		



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	Students calculate own percentage in exams (Give back marks as a fraction and students compute percentage themselves)				
<b>Target 4</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.	<b>4A</b> Organise an annual numeracy drive in the school which lasts 1-2 weeks dependant on available time. <b>4B</b> Activities during the Numeracy Drive that we organised are as follows: <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</li></ul>	All Staff Numeracy Committee	Review of Numeracy Drive  Ensure engagement of entire school community in the numeracy drive  Results of Darts competition and students adding their own scores		





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	every Day for all Years • St Vincent's Census				
<b>Target 5</b> Improve staff confidence in numeracy.	<b>5A</b> Survey all staff to see attitudes towards Numeracy <b>5B</b> Provide internal CPD for all staff at staff meeting.	SSE Committee Maths Dept E. Connolly (CPD)	Engagement with CPD Feedback from staff on CPD and Numeracy confidence		
<b>Target 6</b> Planning for E-Learning	<b>6A</b> We plan to survey staff, parents, and students to collect the data that forms the basis of our Numeracy intervention.	SSE Committee	Completed Surveys		