

CBS Thurles.



School Improvement Plan – 2014/2017

November 2014

Summary of main strengths

- Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, parents and the Board of Management collaborate to bring about school improvement through the implementation of the **numeracy** plan.
- There is increased awareness of the need for a whole school numeracy approach to improve standards in line with the National Literacy and **Numeracy** Strategy.
- The appointment of a link teacher to co-ordinate the **numeracy** component of our School Improvement Plan.
- Continuing professional development (CPD) is on-going in the area of **numeracy. (Project Maths)**
- There is an awareness of numeracy among staff and all staff members are engaged in promoting **numeracy** through their subject areas.
- All staff members are aware that **numeracy** is not just about maths and they try to relate numeracy to real life situations
- We currently (Nov. 2014) have 62% of our 5th year students and 44% of our 6th years studying higher level Maths at senior level.
- In Leaving Certificate 2014, 36% of our students sat the higher paper, compared to a national figure of 27%. 80% of our students who sat the honours paper got either an A,B or C which is again above the national average.
- CBS Thurles currently establishes a standardised maths score for all first years using the Cognitive Abilities Test.
- CBS Thurles is committed to promoting a better understanding of the critical importance of the core skill of numeracy in all of its forms and improving our students' numeracy skills so that they can become effective communicators.

Summary of main areas requiring improvement as identified:

- Creating a numeracy rich environment on corridors and in classrooms.

- Ensuring that students have a good knowledge of basic operations such as estimating measures / times.
- Ensuring that students can find a percentage by a given method. To increase the number of students taking higher level Maths at Leaving Certificate level.
- To arrange CPD for the teaching staff in relation to teaching practices, learning and numeracy skills and co-operative learning.
- To strengthen the status of mathematics and the students' numeracy skills in order to develop and sustain a more positive attitude towards numeracy.
- After discussion and reflection by staff, we have decided to implement the following strategies / targets during 2014/2016.

Target 1

To develop a numeracy rich environment by using various methods such as:

- Number lines in every classroom.
- Analogue clocks in every classroom.
- A dedicated numeracy notice board to be placed on corridor towards new building

Target 2

- Teachers will give back test results in fraction format and students will work out the percentage.
- Teachers will use a common step by step approach to convert a fraction to a percentage to ensure consistency.

Target 3:

- Time will be incorporated into all subject areas eg., telling the time in language classes, reading bus timetables, planning trips (flight times etc.),
- First year students can use their iPads may be used for this purpose

Target 4:

- A metric height chart to be painted onto the wall so as that students can measure their height.
- Competitions to be run throughout the year to encourage students to apply numeracy strategies to every-day life situations which involve problem solving skills; eg., a jar of sweets to be displayed prominently – students to work out the no. of sweets based on clues given re. dimensions, weight etc.

Target 5 :

An extra period of Maths per week for junior students.

Target 6:

CPD for teachers in the area of numeracy.

- CPD is to be provided for teachers in the area of numeracy.

Target 7 :

To create a more positive attitude towards numeracy.

- We hope to sustain and enhance the positive attitude of our students with regards to numeracy by using
- strategies which involve games, puzzles and competitions such as 'mathletes'.

Persons

responsible

Target 1 – Whole School Initiative - management, numeracy team and class teachers.

Target 2 –Whole School Initiative – management, numeracy team and Teaching staff.

Target 3 – Senior Management (timetabling)

Whole School Initiative – accommodating the new timetable.

Target 4 – Senior Management, numeracy team and teaching staff.

Target 5 – Numeracy link teacher – Maths teachers

Timeframe for action

Target 1 – Ongoing throughout Sept. 2014 to May 2015 *Completed May 2015*

Target 2 – Percentages : Oct. 2014 – June 2015 *Completed Sept.. 2015*

Target 3 – Academic year 2014 /2015 *Completed Sept. 2015*

Target 4 – Earliest available date. *Completed May 2015*

Target 5 – Academic Year 2014/ 2015 *Completed May 2015*

Success criteria/measurable outcomes

Target 1 – Students will become more familiar with simple maths terms.

Target 2 –Students will have a good working knowledge of finding a percentage. Competency will be developed in basic operations such as estimating measures / times.

Target 3 – Consultation with Maths teachers , exam results and numbers of students taking higher level at Leaving Certificate level.

Target 4 – Feedback from staff after our CPD inservice(s)

Target 5 – Surveys are to be given to a sample group of students at the

Beginning of the year and again at the end of the year, the results of which will be analysed by the numeracy team.

All of the above student based strategies and targets will be carried out in a way that creates and promotes a positive feedback towards numeracy for our student body