

# 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**