

## Literacy for Learning & Life

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
This information leaflet outlines the school's strategy to improve and literacy among the pupils in our school.

It is an important blueprint of how we will work to develop and enhance the teaching and learning of literacy.

The key areas in Ballinlough National School's Plan for *Literacy* include:

### Literacy

- Building Bridges of Understanding
- Comprehension Strategies to aid comprehension.

In order to enable parents and the community to support children's literacy development, we would like to provide a brief outline of the above strategies.

This will ensure consistency and further co-operation between home and school.

Ballinlough School values your support and cooperation. If you have any recommendations, queries, or advice, please feel free to contact us.

Thanking you,  
Teachers at Ballinlough National School

## Building Bridges of Understanding

Building Bridges of Understanding is a whole school approach to the teaching of reading. Its primary focus is the teaching of comprehension, with the ultimate aim of enabling children to become self-regulated strategic readers.

The eight key strategies are: Prediction, Visualisation, Making Connections, Questioning, Clarifying, Determining Importance, Inferring and Synthesising.

This programme is currently implemented from Junior Infant right through to Sixth Class.

Each strategy is explicitly modelled through a think aloud process using high quality fiction and non-fiction picture books.

*You can help by:*

- Allowing time for reading every day at home.
- Asking your child about the strategies above.
- Encouraging the use of these strategies when reading.

## Questions

Some questions on **Predicting** may include:

- I think this story is about.....
- I predict that .....will happen next
- From what I know, I don't think.....

Some questions on **Visualising** may include:

- When I read this I can see.....
- I can see a picture in my head, it looks like this.....
- I can see, hear, smell.....

Some examples of **Questioning** may include:

- I wonder if.....
- Who/what /where/when/why/how

Some questions on **Connecting** may include: (connecting to real life experiences)

- That reminds me of a time when.....
- That reminds me of another book.
- That reminds me of somebody who....

Some examples of **Inferring** (like Predicting but needs to be backed up with a reason) are:

- Using these clues I can infer that.....
- It could mean that.....

Some examples of **Synthesising** may include: (uses prior knowledge to form opinions ie reading between the lines)

- This was mostly about.....
- The important details were.....

Some examples of **Determining Importance** (picking out the V.I.P.'s or very important points I need to know about the story.)

- This is mostly about.....
- The important details were.....

Some examples of **Clarifications** are: (making sense of words/phrases in the story)

- When I get stuck on a word I can.....