

# School Improvement Plan

## Year Plan to improve Literacy Levels

### Strengths:

- **Attainment levels in Literacy are above national norms, no child scored at/below 2<sup>nd</sup> percentile.  
83% of our pupils scored over the 51<sup>st</sup> percentile  
79% of our pupils score between 51<sup>st</sup> & 98<sup>th</sup> percentile  
5.8% scored at/above 98<sup>th</sup> percentile.**
- **Pupils display a positive attitude towards reading (pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class were surveyed and 87% admitted to enjoying reading.**
- **Pupils use their literacy skills competently in their learning of all curriculum areas.**
- **Pupils are exposed to a wide variety of reading texts**
- **Pupils read with fluency**
- **Parents have been surveyed and are on the whole positive with regard to the development of literacy skills in their child.**
- **The Parents Association is extremely supportive of the literacy initiative and have provided financial assistance for literacy resources (introduction of Literacy Lift Off).**
- **Staff are conscious of the importance of CPD our list of courses completed by staff is updated regularly.**
- **The Majority of pupils enjoy reading at home.**
- **Results of Standardised tests reflect the strong literacy focus in the school.**

### Target(s):

- To increase the % of pupils performing between the 17<sup>th</sup> -50<sup>th</sup> percentile over the next 3 years so that no child is scoring between 3-16<sup>th</sup> percentile( At present 2.9% of children are scoring below the 17<sup>th</sup> percentile)
- To increase the number of children scoring between 85<sup>th</sup>-98<sup>th</sup> percentile from 35% to 38% over the next 3 years
- To increase parental participation by the introduction of C.A.P.E.R. (Children and Parents enjoy reading).
- To promote a more positive attitude to the writing process by the introduction of Free Writing .
- To have set up a Literacy Lift Off initiative and implemented it successfully over the next 3 years.

## Baseline Data:-

In 2014 Drumcondra English Tests were analysed:

- 2.9% of children are scoring below 17<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 12.9% of children are scoring between 17<sup>th</sup>-50<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 40% of children are scoring between the 51<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 35% of children are scoring between the 85<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 8.6% of children are scoring above 98<sup>th</sup> percentile

- The School Scot analysis identified vocabulary development, writing genres, comprehension and penmanship as concerns.
- Parents focus groups identified comprehension strategies and handwriting as areas for concern.
- Pupils Questionnaires showed that 87% of pupils between 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Class reported to enjoying reading.

WSE recommendations from 2005 identified penmanship and matching reading material to pupils ability (graded readers) as areas for development.

## Actions:

Action	Who?	When?	Resources?	Completed/ ongoing
SAW Free writing copy introduced as part of Stop and write time	All Class Teachers	Monday Wednesday		Jan 2014
DEAR Drop Everything and Read – 15mins after break	All Class Teachers	Tuesday Thursday		Sept 2013
Analyse Halloween test, Xmas/Easter tests As well as Drumcondra Tests regularly Meeting with class Teachers/LS to monitor progress	All Staff	After Break		ongoing
Analyse children's questionnaires to get an overview of their thoughts on reading.	All Staff	completed		<i>completed</i>
Adopt a My Phrases copy	All Staff	Commence immediately		<i>ongoing</i>
Adopt a dictionary copy to promote vocabulary	All Staff	Commenced		<i>Ongoing</i>

Building Bridges of Understanding to be formally adopted after staff attended training	All staff	Commenced 2012	Copies of books purchased	<i>Ongoing</i>
More Novels purchased for Senior class, less reliance on reader.	Tanya	June 2014	Novels purchased	<i>Guided reading commenced Sept 2014 in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class</i>
That children be given chance to write in a variety of writing genres and samples to be collected from each class	All Staff	Commenced 2012	Samples to be collected	<i>Ongoing</i>
Cursive writing to be introduced from 1 <sup>st</sup> class up and samples displayed throughout the school	All Staff	Commenced 2013		<i>Ongoing</i>

Literacy Lift off to commence September 2014 for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Mrs McCartan	September 2014	PM & Readers purchased	Ongoing
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**Monitoring/Review:** HALLOWEEN, CHRISTMAS, MID-TERM, EASTER tests to be monitored.  
 In MAY – THE STANDARDISED test results to be analysed and discussed.  
 C.P.D. on relevant courses, methodologies for all staff.  
 Staff meetings and Croke Park hours will have discussion and feedback on the Literacy Plan  
 Teachers observation is a key tool which will be used in monitoring the progress of the Literacy plan.  
 Key observations will be noted and discussed at whole staff level.  
 Pupil, parent feedback will be sought at regular intervals  
 Questionnaires and focus groups administered and set up to get opinions.

**Success criteria/Evaluation:**

- Ongoing assessment and review of standardised results in the targeted areas
- Review of pupils work –copies, samples, projects, writing portfolios.
- Class conferencing between pupil & teacher to gauge feedback.