



F.C.J. Secondary School Bunclody

Numeracy Policy 2016

Mission Statement

FCJ Secondary School is committed to developing and raising the standards of numeracy of all its students. The school recognises that numeracy is a key component across all academic subjects and an essential lifetime skill necessary in coping with the future demands of further education and working life. We will build awareness in our school on the importance of numeracy in everyday life. We will provide information and advice to teachers, students and parents to enable them to facilitate development of numeracy.

What is Numeracy?

Numeracy is not limited to the ability to use numbers, to add, subtract, multiply and divide. It encompasses the ability to use mathematical understanding and skill to solve problems and meet demands of day-to-day living and social settings. To have this ability, a young person needs to be able to think and communicate quantitatively, to make sense of data, to have a spatial awareness, to understand patterns and sequences and to recognise situations where mathematical reasoning can be applied to solve problems. (*Department of Education and Skills 2011*)

Numeracy Committee

The Numeracy Committee is responsible for implementing and co-ordinating the development of a whole school approach to numeracy. The group's role is to set short and long term targets, they will give advice and strategies to teachers on how best to achieve these goals. They will monitor and evaluate and give feedback on the development of numeracy.

Aims

To get a targeted intervention programme, all incoming first year students are assessed using a combination of different assessment tests and students and teachers and parents are surveyed.

Based on the information gathered,

- An intervention programme is put in place to tackle any numeracy difficulties students may have
- All subject teachers are informed of these numeracy difficulties and given different teaching strategies to help tackle these issues.

Targets

- To increase the number of students attaining higher level honours at Junior Certificate from 54 percent to 60 percent
- To increase students' awareness of the importance of being numerate in everyday life from 73 percent to 85 percent
- To increase students' awareness as to the importance of graphs and charts as a means to presenting and interpreting a range of information
- To improve student capacity to interchange between fractions, decimals and percentages

Strategies

- Create a numeracy rich environment in all classrooms and in the corridors
- Numeracy board in social area
- Co-ordinated approach to conversion

- Hold a Numeracy Week
- Have in-school Numeracy competitions and participate in national competitions
- Display of any maths symbols relating to the topic on the board
- Students will receive their exam results as fractions and students will then convert them to percentages using the co-ordinated approach

Monitoring and Evaluating

To ensure that the policy is being successful the numeracy committee will:

- Monitor the levels and grades that students achieve from 1st to 3rd year
- Survey both teachers and students to find areas of possible development
- Will liaise with each subject department to evaluate the progress being made and identify any issues that need to be addressed
- At the end of 1st year students will be assessed again to monitor their progress

Development of Numeracy in all Subjects

Art

- Use of patterns and image enlargement
- Paint mixing as a ratio
- Measuring length, areas and volumes, angles
- Through planning and investigation process, estimate the amount of material needed to make a number of components for an art project

Science

- Using, making and recording measurements with appropriate precision
- Representing and interpreting tables, graphs and data from experiments
- Read, write, compare and order positive and negative numbers
- Estimate calculation to make sense of an answer

Maths

- Read a bus or train timetable and establish appropriate routes of travel to get from A to B
- Make appropriate conversions between units of measurement
- Present and display information collected in an investigated project using a graph
- Problem solving involving distance, speed and time

Developments in Numeracy in further subjects will be added in September 2016.

Summary

During the year we have created a numeracy rich environment in all classrooms and in the corridors and especially have developed a co-ordinated approach to conversion. We held a Numeracy Week and students took part in school Numeracy competitions. 1st Years and 4th Years took part in a number of national Numeracy competitions. Teachers in every subject department are now aware of targets and strategies and have made a numeracy rich environment for their students. Teachers now display any maths symbols relating to the topic on the board. To help reach our targets, students receive their exam results as fractions and then convert them to percentages using the co-ordinated approach. To increase the number of students attaining higher level grades at Junior Certificate all 2nd year students took the higher level course and a new book was introduced.