

Literacy Policy

FCJ Secondary School

Bunclody



Literacy Statement:

Our school is a Christian community of learning and companionship in which each student and staff member experiences and is responsible for the development of person centred, holistic and enjoyable education.

Our aim is to create a respectful, happy, safe and co-operative atmosphere built on a foundation of positive relationships among all in our school community.

In this atmosphere students can participate fully in all school activities so as to further personal development, good citizenship and academic progress.

It is our aim that all of our students will achieve literacy levels of the standard that will allow them to engage with the world successfully on leaving our school.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"
(Nelson Mandela)

Rationale:

In July 2011 the then Minister for Education & Skills, Ruairi Quinn launched the national Literacy & Numeracy strategy "Literacy & Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011- 2020". The aim of this strategy is to improve literacy and numeracy among young people in Ireland. An interim review of the strategy took place in 2017 and revised targets were drawn up for 2017- 2020.

The rationale behind this strategy was to address our nation's educational shortcomings where:

1. 1/10 children in Irish schools has serious difficulty with reading and writing.
2. Studies revealed that literacy skills in primary school have not improved in 30 years despite investment in learning support, curricular reform and a reduction in the pupil -teacher ratio.
3. Pisa 2009 tests revealed that 17% of all Irish 15yr olds and 1/ 4 of Irish teenage boys lack the literacy skills to function effectively in today's society.

We are committed to implementing a variety of literacy strategies which aim to improve the literacy standards of our students so that they can engage competently with language, the printed text and digital media.

Definition of Literacy:

Literacy includes the capacity to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication including spoken language, printed text, broadcast media and digital media.

Role of Literacy Team:

To promote literacy across the whole school, encompassing professional development for teachers along with initiatives that will have a clear impact on student literacy levels.

The team members are: Brendan Daly- Deputy Principal, Louise Kenny -SEN co-ordinator, Justin Kelly - English and Geography teacher, Emily Doyle - English and Geography teacher, Rosemary Lawlor- English and History teacher, Ciara Grufferty- History and R.E teacher, Leanne Nolan- History and R.E teacher, Michael Ruane -Irish and Economics.

Priorities 2017-2020 for Literacy(Interim Review of Literacy and Numeracy Strategy)

1. To tackle educational disadvantage
2. To enable higher achieving students to reach their full potential
3. Embedding achievements gained in literacy with a particular focus on:
 - a. Literacy for and through the Irish language
 - b. Digital Literacy

Objectives:(6 Pillars of Education- Literacy and Numeracy Strategies 2011- 2020

- To engage support from parents and local community in order to promote literacy throughout the whole school
- To access supports that will enhance literacy in our school such as continuing professional development, initial teacher induction (Droichead), new teaching and learning methodologies and strategies

- To embed ICT in teaching and learning in accordance with the digital strategy for schools 2015-2020
- To prioritise high quality teaching and learning experiences in our school (*Looking at our school 2016*) including the use of assessment data to improve the quality of education offered and to encourage the use of self-evaluation in order to improve literacy standards in our school
- To improve the Curriculum and Learning Experience by prioritising the key skills of "*Being Literate and Being Numerate*" as part of our new Junior Cycle, and enhancing students' digital literacy skills
- To implement the new model for allocating additional teaching resources to learners with special educational needs and encouraging good collaboration between classroom teachers, SEN teachers as well as parents/ guardians
- To use assessment data to improve teaching and learning especially in the area of early interventions. To ensure that data is transferred from primary to secondary schools and shared with parents

Whole-school approach to Literacy:

"The promotion of an integrated whole school approach to literacy.... is critical at post-primary level" DES circular 0025/2012.

We are committed to the development of a whole school approach to literacy and recognise the need for a multi-stranded approach. We intend to use a whole school approach to literacy to improve learning and raise standards. In order for our literacy policy to be effective it needs to be adopted, promoted and enacted in every subject area and by every subject teacher.

Initiatives:

- To establish a school library
- To launch a digital technology based library system
- To introduce the accelerated reader programme for all first year and learning support classes
- To launch the "Well Read" initiative
- To introduce paired reading between senior and junior students and extend this out to our local primary schools

- Form teachers will use digital media to promote the various initiatives within our school such as Anti-Bullying, Active School and Healthy Eating, Green Schools and Cycle against Suicide
- Staff will agree on common teaching methodologies and standardised correction methods
- We will post on each teacher's classroom door an image of the book they are currently reading and the title to engage teachers and students in a conversation on reading
- The "Well Read" team will survey all students on their reading habits and introduce a number of initiatives over the course of the school year such as mini-libraries, Christmas tree built from books, classroom dictionaries
- The use of digital technology such as Google Classroom and Edmodo for the provision of information/notes and submission of student's work
- To establish links with our local (Bunclody) and Wexford County Libraries (Edel Morrissey- Librarian)
- The establishment of a literacy notice board outside staffroom
- Short-story writing competition sponsored by parents association
- To set up a "Reading Corner" a casual reading space where students can read
- To arrange lunch-time access to the library
- To create a print-rich environment in our classrooms and corridors making use of classroom notice boards and celebrating our students' work
- The removal of signs/ posters with incorrect spelling or grammatical errors
- Writer in Residence - who will conduct workshops with our students to promote creativity and literacy skills (CarolineBusher, Niall O' Muiri)

Signed: _____(Chairperson of the BOM)

Date: _____

Targets for 2018-2019

- Focus on Literacy for and through the Irish medium
- Focus on digital literacy
- Target the 2 year cohort in reading for pleasure
- To arrange lunch time access to the library
- The removal of signs/ posters with incorrect spelling or grammatical error
- Writer in Residence - who will conduct workshops with our students to promote creativity and literacy skills (Caroline Busher, Niall O' Muiri)